

News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2020

Connecticut Department of Mental Health
and Addiction Services

Contact: Jim Siemianowski

james.siemianowski@ct.gov

(860) 305-6810 (cell)

DMHAS Releases Aggregate Data of Laboratory Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in DMHAS Facilities

Hartford, CT – The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) today released aggregate data of the reported number of laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 identified in patients within its state-operated inpatient facilities and staff employed throughout the DMHAS system. DMHAS operates over 760 mental health and substance use beds and employs approximately 3,300 staff throughout the state-operated service system.

Cumulative Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in DMHAS Facilities

	Laboratory Confirmed Cases of COVID-19	
	Patients	Staff
Connecticut Valley Hospital	63	45
Whiting Forensic Hospital	10	22
Capitol Regional Mental Health Center	0	3
Connecticut Mental Health Center	0	9
River Valley Services	0	2
Southeast Mental Health Authority	0	2
Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System	0	7
Western Connecticut Mental Health Network	0	3
Total:	73	93

As outlined in the non-test based criteria disseminated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention [Guidance regarding Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings](#), patients at DMHAS are recovering from COVID-19.

To date, 56 patients at Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) and 10 patients at Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH) have recovered from the virus. Additionally, 85 of 93 staff members have provided medical documentation showing they have recovered from COVID-19, allowing them to return safely to work.

DMHAS continues to take significant steps to protect clients and staff from COVID-19 throughout the DMHAS inpatient units. These include:

- Utilizing spaces in all state-operated facilities to be used for the isolation of patients with COVID-19;
- Distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) including n95 masks, surgical masks, gowns, gloves and hand sanitizer to all state-operated facilities;
- Using quarantine and isolation protocols for patients and staff that have been reviewed and approved by the Department of Public Health;
- Restricting visitors from DMHAS facilities;
- Conducting health screenings of all individuals who enter DMHAS facilities, including staff and clients;
- Directing staff who are symptomatic or have been in close contact with individuals suspected of or having COVID-19 to stay home and self-quarantine to prevent infecting clients and other staff;
- Briefly pausing admissions in DMHAS inpatient services where community providers have capacity to absorb patients;
- Temporarily reducing bed capacities in certain units across the system in order to maintain proper social distancing requirements;
- Re-allocating critical staff in order to expand capacity to isolate COVID patients
- Continuing use of acute care general hospital settings to provide care for patients with serious medical conditions;
- Voluntary testing of patients at CVH and WFH for COVID-19;
- Initiating voluntary testing of CVH and WFH staff. To date almost 700 have been tested at the two hospitals and River Valley Services; and
- Obtaining ongoing consultation with the Department of Public Health regarding strategies for managing COVID-19 in inpatient settings.

For more information, visit the DMHAS COVID-19 Response webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS-COVID-19>.
