

News

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Contact: Art Mongillo
Arthur.Mongillo@ct.gov
(860) 335-7623

DMHAS Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon Tests Positive for COVID-19; Department 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) announced today that Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon has tested positive for COVID-19. She is currently in self-isolation and is following all guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Public Health (DPH). “While I am experiencing mild symptoms, I am able to rest and safely quarantine at home,” said Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon. “I have had limited face to face contact with co-workers due to teleworking and I have been in daily contact with the team at DMHAS. I am grateful my colleagues in the office have not been exposed,” she concluded.

DMHAS also 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 at DMHAS client care facilities. DMHAS operates over 760 mental health and substance use beds and employs approximately 3,300 staff throughout its statewide service system.

Cumulative Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases at DMHAS Facilities Cumulative from March 1, 2020 to Present

Laboratory Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

	Inpatients	All DMHAS Staff
Connecticut Valley Hospital	67	69
Whiting Forensic Hospital	16	32
Capitol Regional Mental Health Center	0	7
Connecticut Mental Health Center	0	14
River Valley Services	0	9
Southeast Mental Health Authority	0	2
Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System	4	18
Western Connecticut Mental Health Network	0	9
Total:	87	160

To date, 61 patients at Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH), 13 patients at Whiting Forensic Hospital (WFH), and 3 patients at Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System (SWCMHS) have recovered from the virus. Additionally, 132 of 160 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 its inpatient units. These steps include:

- Utilizing spaces in all state-operated facilities 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 (DPH);
- Quarantining newly admitted patients;
- Requiring that staff who travel from high infection areas self-quarantine for 14 days;
- 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;
- Temporarily reducing bed capacities in certain units across the system in order to maintain proper social distancing requirements;
- Voluntary testing of patients at CVH and WFH for COVID-19; and
- Obtaining ongoing consultation with DPH 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>.
