



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**  
*A Healthcare Service Agency*

NED LAMONT  
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.  
COMMISSIONER

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** DMHAS Private Non-Profit Providers  
**From:** Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.  
**Date:** April 14, 2020  
**Subject:** DMHAS COVID-19 Provider Update #12

I expect the coming weeks will continue to challenge us as we continue to serve the behavioral health community while grappling with the pandemic. While we see some hopeful signs, we will continue to see high numbers of positive tests for the virus, hospitalizations and deaths. My thoughts are with you as you deal with illness and losses within your own families and organizations. Today's Update includes several resources that may be useful as you manage your agencies during these difficult times. Thank you again for all that you and your staff are doing in our battle against the coronavirus.

**CT Responds and Medical Reserve Corps**

CT Responds is the State of Connecticut's web-based volunteer system, managed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), that allows people can sign up to volunteer to help agencies across the state. The assignment of these volunteers is done through the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) which is a network of local groups of volunteers engaging the communities to strengthen public health, reduce vulnerability, build resilience, and improve preparedness, response and recovery capabilities. Connecticut has 23 MRC units that work in collaboration with the local community Health Districts.

The CT MRC contact is Stephanie McGuire, who works at DPH. She is the Volunteer Management Coordinator for the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response. According to Stephanie, DPH verifies the licenses of people who volunteer and helps the MRC vet volunteers. To access volunteers an agency should provide their contact information and the following information via email to Stephanie McGuire at [Stephanie.McGuire@ct.gov](mailto:Stephanie.McGuire@ct.gov). The attached Excel spreadsheet can be used to communicate your needs. Please be sure to include the following information:

(860) 418-7000  
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431, Hartford, Connecticut 06134  
<https://portal.ct.gov/dmhas>  
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- Location
- Days and Times
- Tasks and Responsibilities

Stephanie will forward requests to the appropriate individuals within the health district systems. The MRC will match volunteers to the identified needs, and the MRC staff will directly contact the agency and negotiate with the identified staff.

### **New England Mental Health Technology Transfer (MHTTC) Resources for Health and Wellness**

The New England MHTCC has compiled a list of free mental health and wellness resources. The list includes resources in Connecticut as well as those that are national resources. I have attached that Infographic which may be useful to your organization's clients and staff.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

We are aware that PPE shortages continue for providers. While the leadership in the state is employing every solution possible to address this issue, the national shortage of these materials continues to be problematic. DMHAS has received a limited amount of gloves, disinfectant wipes, and N95 and surgical masks for providers and is in the process of distributing them. DMHAS has submitted requests for provider PPE's to the WebEOC, Connecticut's web-based emergency management information system. We will continue to monitor the status of this request and will distribute any supplies we receive for providers as quickly as we can.

The work you are doing on a daily basis is critical for our client and at times it may seem that your efforts are unnoticed. Please know that we here at DMHAS are keenly aware of the countless sacrifices you make on a daily basis on behalf of the people we serve. We continue to give voice to the needs of our system that you share with us on a daily basis. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at [Miriam.Delphin-Rittmon@ct.gov](mailto:Miriam.Delphin-Rittmon@ct.gov) or Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta via email at [Nancy.Navarretta@ct.gov](mailto:Nancy.Navarretta@ct.gov).