



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 29, 2020
Subject: DMHAS COVID-19 Provider Update #14

Governor Lamont's briefings are continuing to highlight the importance of social distancing and good hygiene. Some positive signs are emerging as hospitalizations have been decreasing across the state. I cannot say thank you enough for all you and your staff have done for our clients during this outbreak. Some of the rapid testing access information in this update may seem redundant but it actually includes modifications that have occurred that I hope will make it easier for private-not for-profit providers (PNPs) to secure testing for staff that are showing symptoms or that are suspected of being exposed to the virus.

CVS Rapid Testing Site in New Haven

DMHAS, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Correction (DOC), and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) have collaborated to get access to rapid testing for direct care workers at PNP's. Rapid testing is being provided at the New Haven COVID-19 Rapid Testing site located on Long Wharf. Providers can access free testing for employees in two ways; by using the CVS Registration site or by using the procedure that is outlined in the attachment that is accompanying this document. ***It is our belief that the most direct route to secure a test appears to be by going directly through the CVS Registration site, <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>*** Some information about the alternative rapid testing procedure is listed below with more info included in the attachments:

"Direct Care Workers include those employed by Nonprofit Providers providing services through a contract with or receiving funding from DCF, DDS, DMHAS and DOC. As you will see, there are 100 slots every day for first responders, and unused slots will be filled by frontline state employees, critical essential workers, and direct care workers based on priority level indicated. Nothing in this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prohibits state employees, critical essential workers, or direct care workers from signing up at any time through the [CVS site](#) that was listed above for an appointment on their own without using the dedicated line.

(860) 418-7000
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431, Hartford, Connecticut 06134
<https://portal.ct.gov/dmhas>
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Attached is a spread sheet for your agency to use in accordance with the SOP guidance, and a calendar showing the day rotation used by first responders (which you do not need to follow, that only applies to first responders). Please be advised that first responders normally do not fill up their regional rotation day, and we are able to accommodate requests from state employees, critical essential workers, and direct care workers, each day to some extent.

Finally, everyone seeking testing through this process will need to provide evidence of their employment; if they do not have a work ID, some verification of employment must be shown, such as a letter from your agency attesting “the individual is a Direct Care Worker employed by your agency at X facility.”

If you have questions about the procedure, contact Yvonne Addo yvonne.addo@ct.gov

CT Cares for Frontline Workers Child Care Subsidy Program

The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood is offering a short-term program that assists front line workers to pay for child care at licensed providers. The program began accepting applications on Monday and will continue to accept them until May 22, 2020. Workers must meet eligibility criteria and cannot take advantage of this program if they are already enrolled in Care 4 Kids Program. More information regarding this program can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ctoec.org/ctcares-for-frontline-workers/> . In order to apply, staff can call 800-505-1000 to connect with 211 Child Care. They can help your staff determine if they are eligible for the program.

This is just a reminder that DMHAS continues to maintain and update our COVID-19 web pages. A range of resources can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Newsworthy/News-Items/DMHAS-Response-to-COVID-19> Together we are making a difference. Thank you for your continued commitment to our clients as you continue to work under challenging circumstances. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at Miriam.Delphin-Rittmon@ct.gov or Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta via email at Nancy.Navarretta@ct.gov.