



**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 Staff  
**From:** Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.  
**Date:** March 20, 2020  
**Subject:** DMHAS COVID-19 Staff Update #5

DMHAS has developed guidance documents to inform the work of staff who have been approved for telework and are contacting clients by telephone. These are meant to be guides. Please consult with your supervisor for guidance that may be specific to your program or facility. As always, please do everything possible to protect the rights of clients including the right to privacy and confidentiality as you work in alternate settings.

DMHAS facilities have begun implementing brief health screenings for anyone coming into a DMHAS building, including staff, clients and contractors. This may include temperature checks. It is imperative that the individuals tasked with screening complete thorough and accurate screenings to help maintain the health and safety of our facilities. Please consider allowing for extra time when reporting to work for the screenings.

With schools and many child care providers closed, direct care staff who are unable to come to work due to child care issues related to disruptions caused by COVID-19 should talk to their supervisor if they are interested in working a different shift to accommodate for child care. The Office of Early Childhood is working to identify available child care for health care workers, first responders and other essential staff. Please call (860) 756-0864 to be directly connected to 2-1-1 Child Care to find child care available in their area.

The Office of Policy Management and Department of Administrative Services have included Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to their guidance on absences and teleworking that answer many questions you may have. The guidance and FAQs are updated regularly and can be found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/State-Employees>.

These are uncertain times for us all, and it's understandable to feel stressed or anxious. If you or a family member are struggling to adjust to the changes of the world around us, please remember that the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available and offers a range of benefits and services to help you in your time of need. You can reach out to Solutions EAP by calling 1-800-526-3485. For more information about EAP, please visit the DMHAS EAP webpage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DMHAS/Divisions/Safety-Services/DSS---EAP>.

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