



**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 24, 2020  
**Subject:** DMHAS COVID-19 Staff Update #8

The Department has learned that an employee at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual was last at work on March 10, 2020 and called out sick on March 11, 2020 reporting a fever and flu-like symptoms. The individual was tested on March 14, 2020 and DMHAS was notified of the positive test result late on March 23, 2020. Seven other staff who were in close contact with the individual have been out on self-quarantine. Patients who came in contact with the employee have also been in quarantine and are being monitored for symptoms of COVID-19. Staff on the affected unit are also being monitored for symptoms, taking appropriate precautions and practicing infection control to prevent further spread of the virus. The employee who tested positive for COVID-19 is recovering at home.

DMHAS has taken significant steps to protect clients and staff throughout the DMHAS system. These include:

- Adjusting outpatient services while promoting social distancing including telephone check-ins and closing wellness centers and social clubs;
- Restricting visitors from DMHAS facilities;
- Conducting health screenings of all individuals who enter DMHAS facilities, including staff and clients;
- Approving over 900 employees for telework to promote social distancing and minimize exposure to clients and staff at DMHAS facilities; and,
- 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.

The health and safety of the people we serve and the staff who serve them is paramount. I encourage all staff to be diligent in practicing social distancing, frequent hand washing and staying home if you are not feeling well. These steps, while simple, go a long way in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

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The work of the agency would not be possible without you. Please take care of yourself and each other, and stay healthy and safe.