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 26, 2020

Subject: DMHAS COVID-19 Staff Update #9

Since the Governor announced the first positive case of COVID-19 in a Connecticut nearly three weeks ago, nearly 900 additional state residents have tested positive for the virus. It is expected that we will see an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases across the state, including throughout the DMHAS system.

As part of the agency's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, DMHAS has identified spaces in each state-operated facility to be used to care for individuals who require isolation based on suspected or confirmed COVID-19 virus. "Isolation" is the term used when separating a patient who is showing symptoms or is known to have COVID-19 from patients who are well. "Quarantine" is the term used to separate patients who have been exposed to COVID-19, but are not showing symptoms and are being monitored for signs of illness. As this is an evolving situation, these plans are fluid and subject to change dependent on a number of factors including acuity, patient needs, staffing levels, etc. For information on the designated isolation space in your facility, please contact your facility CEO.

It is important for caregivers to continue to make sure that they stay healthy, physically and mentally. Please visit https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Pages/Public-Health-Resources/Mental-Health-Resources for a multitude of resources that can be helpful during this stressful time.

Responding to an infectious disease pandemic of this magnitude is new territory for all of us in the healthcare community. I appreciate everybody's patience and cooperation as we tread these uncertain waters. Please know that we are all in this together and that I will do all I can to maintain the health and safety of the clients and staff of DMHAS.