

MONTHLY PROVIDER DATA QUALITY NEWSLETTER

October 2022

COVID-19 Critical Incidents Update

This Provider Alert serves as a communication regarding a modification to the critical incident reporting protocol relating to patients and staff who test positive for COVID-19.

Critical incident reporting serves as a risk management tool to assist in monitoring risk patterns with the goal of supporting healthcare providers in implementing corrective measures to increase safety for staff and clients. Throughout this pandemic, DMHAS-operated facilities and private non-profit partners have continued to demonstrate diligence and thoughtfulness regarding all COVID-19 reporting requirements, as well as infection control measures implemented to mitigate risk for staff and clients.

Additionally, critical incidents are intended for those events that are out of the ordinary occurrences that pose a risk to staff, clients and overall operations. As such, the length of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused COVID-19 to be viewed as a chronic risk factor.

Thus, DMHAS has elected to modify COVID-19 related critical incident reporting requirements for DMHAS-operated and private non-profit providers. Effective November 1, 2022:

- Providers are **no longer required** to submit critical incident reports to DMHAS for staff and clients who test positive for COVID-19
- However, COVID-19 related critical incident reports **are required** to be submitted if COVID-19 affects business operations (e.g., pausing admissions, capacity adjustments, quarantined units, etc).

If you have any questions about this critical incident reporting modification, please contact Karin Haberlin at karin.haberlin@ct.gov or Kristen Miller at kristen.miller@ct.gov