

SUD Medical Directors COVID-19 WebEx

Executive Summary

April 3, 2020

Dr. Esposito, County BH Department Assistant Clinical Director, requested DMC-ODS Medical Directors (MDs) to reconvene on April 3, 2020 via WebEx to provide updated information regarding COVID-19 response efforts as well as to respond to questions.

At this meeting, County BHS re-confirmed the following TB protocols per Public Health recommendations: 1) for residential, go straight to chest x-ray; and 2) for outpatient for non-symptomatic patients, OK to link to screening when available. The County's [Tuberculosis Control and Refugee Health Program](#) is available for additional information.

The Medical Directors discussed testing of clients and health care workers, the availability of PPE and supplies, as well as the practice of maintaining 6 ft between beds. The [guidance](#) from the County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Wilma Wooten, on Temporary Lodging for Persons Requiring Isolation includes the process to refer symptomatic residential clients for temporary housing pending results of COVID-19 testing.

Tabatha Lang, BHS Quality Improvement Administrator, provided confirmed that all initial visits for methadone are required to be in person or via video (reference: [DHCS OTP FAQ](#)). For additional information, please review the [Information for Behavioral Health Services Providers Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Quality Improvement Updates and Best Practices](#).

Dr. Bailey, Medical Director of Optum San Diego Public Sector for Behavioral Solutions shared the a resource on [potential isolation & adverse impacts on recovery of SUD clients that have gone to virtual check ins, reduced services, quarantine, etc.](#) and on a [virtual treatment webinar](#).

Since the April 3 meeting, DHCS has indicated waiver flexibilities regarding relaxing of the regulations to allow a Medical Director of a non-IMS residential facility the ability to prescribe while sheltering in place. Programs will need to work with their CORs on any necessary contract amendments for implementation.

BHS will follow up and work with DHCS to determine if there are any waiver flexibilities regarding OTPs performing the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or antibody test on new intakes or suspected patients and receive reimbursement for those services.

Please note that [Health Advisory Update #9: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) – Guidance for Healthcare Personnel Related to Monitoring, Isolation, and Exposures](#) includes information on healthcare personnel testing and temporary lodging if needed. As a reminder, health care and public safety professionals in San Diego may receive priority health communications from the County of San Diego HHS Public Health Services Division through the California Health Alert Network (CAHAN) San Diego. To subscribe, visit [CAHAN San Diego](#).