



County of San Diego

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LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

March 13, 2020

Behavioral Health Services Providers,

On behalf of County Behavioral Health Services, I am reaching out to share important information with our provider community related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

First, we want to ensure that you are regularly monitoring the County of San Diego's COVID-19 website at www.coronavirus-sd.com for important information, including guidance relevant to you all as service providers and employers.

We know that our providers have many questions about how to ensure the health, safety and well-being of clients, patients, staff, visitors, and the broader community. To complement State, Federal, and local guidance, BHS is developing guidance and recommendations specifically pertaining to your work as providers of behavioral health services in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak.

In the coming days, we will be releasing additional guidance in key areas including

- Strategies to address the impacts of workforce fluctuations
- Strategies to reduce the risk of the spread of illness in workforce and clients
- Adjustments to clinical service delivery including opportunities to leverage telephonic services
- Contract and regulatory compliance
- Other guidance on business operations

Among the questions that we know our providers have is how to address financial impacts of COVID-19. In the near term, communication is forthcoming from the HHS Agency Contract Support regarding financial impacts; information will be coming from Behavioral Health services on regarding concerns specific to our BHS providers.

BHS is committed to offering our providers all necessary and available information to ensure clinical services can be delivered with integrity and care in the context of the necessary work of risk mitigation. Thank you for all you are doing to keep behavioral health services accessible as we move through this evolving situation. We look forward to continuing to provide regular updates on COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to your BHS COR with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LUKE BERGMANN".

LUKE BERGMANN, Ph.D., Director
Behavioral Health Services

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