

SUD Medical Directors COVID-19 WebEx
Thursday, April 9, 2020 | 1-2pm
Executive Summary

Dr. Nicole Esposito, County Behavioral Health Services Department (BHS) Assistant Clinical Director, requested for DMC-ODS Medical Directors (MDs) to reconvene on a weekly basis via WebEx to provide updates regarding COVID-19 response efforts as well as to respond to questions. The group reconvened on Thursday, April 9th at 1pm.

Dr. Luke Bergmann, County BHS Director, shared that the County is pursuing opportunities to secure additional space for Substance Use Disorder (SUD residential providers to be able to move patients to reduce risk. The County is also surveying programs to help inform what Countywide resources are still needed.

Providers can now sign up for direct email updates by topic via the [Community Sector Support website](#) from County Public Health Services, including the [COVID-19 Telebriefings Schedule by Sector](#). MDs are encouraged to continue to route specific operational questions to their CORs in addition to the weekly SUD Medical Directors COVID-19 meetings.

A separate meeting will be scheduled for Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Medical Directors for OTP-specific questions and guidance, with a specific request for sharing between OTP Medical Directors around mitigating risks for clients with take-homes.

Dr. Tim Tormey, BHS SUD Quality Management Manager, confirmed that clinical hours for residential facilities/billable bed day for service activities are unchanged – minimum 1 hour of service from California [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\) Behavioral Health Information Notice 18-001](#), which are also listed in the [Substance Use Disorder Provider Operations Handbook \(SUDPOH\)](#). Discretion is encouraged within “structured activities.” Groups/counseling can be facilitated via telehealth.

Dr. James Dunford shared the process of referring symptomatic clients needing isolation. Since the meeting, the County’s Public Health Officer released the attached Updated Information regarding Temporary Lodging for Persons Requiring Isolation.



County Letter
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There was sharing/discussion between SUD Medical Directors around medical screenings for patients during COVID and practices related to management of new admissions. Additionally, there was a request from SUD Medical Directors for any information from the State about professional liability. The County has submitted this question to DHCS and will inform the system of any response. At this time the County recommends that each MD work with their own carrier for specific questions since carriers and coverage will vary by MD. County requirements have not changed during COVID-19.