



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

DATE: October 8, 2020

Behavioral Health Information Notice No: 20-058

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services  
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators  
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.  
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs  
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies  
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals  
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies  
California Hospital Association  
California Opioid Maintenance Providers  
California State Association of Counties  
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations  
County Behavioral Health Directors  
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California  
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators

SUBJECT: Mitigation Strategies for California Behavioral Health Programs during the COVID-19 Public Emergency.

PURPOSE: This Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Information Notice (BHIN) provides mitigation strategies for behavioral health programs during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

REFERENCE: [BHIN 20-009](#);  
[California Behavioral Health Programs COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies](#)

BACKGROUND:

DHCS is issuing this guidance to counties and behavioral health facilities to offer mitigation strategies in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. DHCS previously released [BHIN 20-009](#) and the [Infection Mitigation in Behavioral Health Facilities – COVID-19 FAQs](#) to assist behavioral health programs minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure ongoing access to care.

Behavioral Health Information Notice No.: 20-058  
Page 2  
October 8, 2020

**POLICY:**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and DHCS jointly developed guidance for testing and infection mitigation practices to protect clients, staff and visitors during the COVID-19 public emergency, including policies related to pre-admission, hygiene and social distancing, off-site activity, transportation, isolation and quarantine, visitor management, staff safety, testing practices and influenza prevention. DHCS expects behavioral health facilities to follow these minimum standards.

The CDPH and DHCS California Behavioral Health Programs COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies document can be found [here](#).

If you have questions about this Information Notice, please contact the DHCS Licensing and Certification Division at [LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Janelle Ito-Orille, Chief  
Licensing and Certification Division