



WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

Access to Medical Therapy Units for Medically Necessary Therapy Services

Updated Guidance Date: September 17, 2020

The California Children's Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Program (MTP) provides medically necessary physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) services to eligible children in a public school setting 12 months a year, including when school is not in session. Currently, many Medical Therapy Units (MTU) are closed to MTU staff and clients due to school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The State Public Health Officer, in response to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20, established a list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers that need to continue to provide services during the pandemic that includes physical therapists and occupational therapists. MTU PT and OT staff require access to the MTU facility in order to provide essential in-person therapy services that cannot be provided using telehealth. In addition, the MTU facility needs the normal maintenance and cleaning support that the schools provide.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has developed Step 1 (Critical Services) and Step 2 (Urgent Services) Guidelines for in-person service provision at the MTU, which all county MTPs must follow. MTU staff must also follow safety protocols developed by their county health department (utilizing CDC guidelines) including use of personal protective equipment and cleaning after each client service.

At this time, DHCS requests all County MTPs who remain closed by education agencies and not by county health department decision to begin communications with the appropriate education agency to re-open the MTUs for in-person services.

Additional Resources

Essential Workforce:

<https://files.covid19.ca.gov/pdf/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>

Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response:

<https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA-Guidance-on-Essential-Critical-Infrastructure-Workers-1-20-508c.pdf>

Access to Medical Therapy Units for Medically Necessary Therapy Services
Page 2 of 2
September 17, 2020

California Children's Services (CCS) Medical Therapy Programs (MTP) Guidance
Relative to the 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19):

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Documents/COVID-19/County-CCS-MTP-COVID-Guidance.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact the MTP Central mailbox at MTPCentral@dhcs.ca.gov

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Roy Schutzengel
Medical Director
Integrated Systems of Care Division