

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Residential Treatment Practice Guideline for COVID-19 Positive Cases

As the pandemic continues into year three, health care providers should have mechanisms in place to safely accommodate clients who test positive for COVID-19. No individual should be removed from necessary treatment due to a positive COVID-19 test unless there is an alternative placement coordinated with another provider prior to discharge. Due to reports of residential treatment programs discharging patients from treatment after a positive COVID test, MSHN has developed the following practice guideline.

Whenever possible, residential providers should keep COVID-positive clients in treatment, and isolate or quarantine them as recommended per CDC guidance here: [CDC COVID-19 Quarantine & Isolation](#). It is considered best practice for patients to safely remain where they are receiving care instead of moving in and out of programming creating risk to the community and to the patient.

- Many programs have utilized technology to support people safely isolating and still being able to participate in treatment. If you have need information on strategies being used throughout the region, please contact your MSHN treatment specialist.
- If due to quarantine, a residential client does not receive the designated amount of core service hours required for that level of care, please document that in the person's daily clinical record. This will meet the Treatment Policy #10 "*Residential Treatment Continuum of Services*" requirements and providers may continue to bill MSHN for residential treatment (H0018/H0019) for those days that an individual is in isolation/quarantine due to COVID-19.
- Please document in authorization requests any days a person was isolated or quarantined and not working toward their treatment goals so the MSHN Utilization Management department will have all clinical information to consider when reviewing authorization requests.

If your program is not able to maintain someone in residential treatment, MSHN contracts with two programs that are able to accept COVID-positive clients: Flint Odyssey House and Quality Behavioral Health

- If no options exist within your program to accommodate the person's continued treatment in your facility, please coordinate with Flint Odyssey House (810-238-5888) or Quality Behavioral Health (313-922-2222) to transfer people who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Flint Odyssey House and Quality Behavioral Health should not be used on the front end to screen and quarantine individuals who are seeking to enter residential treatment. Each residential program must have its own adequate screening practices at the time of admission to treatment.
- An Adverse Benefit Determination and aftercare planning should be provided if someone who tested positive for COVID-19 is discharged due to the severity of their symptoms and the need to for the person to seek medical assistance.

All MSHN-contracted SUD providers must have policies/procedures in place regarding mitigating the spread of COVID-19, including the process for how a positive test for COVID-19 is safely navigated (see [CDC Workplace Guidelines](#)). These will be reviewed this year during annual plan meetings with the MSHN Treatment Team.

If experiencing staff shortages due to COVID, please reach out to your Treatment Specialist and see guidance on the MSHN COVID-19 page [here](#).