



COVID-19 Planning Information for Behavioral Health Providers

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

On Wednesday, March 11, Governor Whitmer declared a State of Emergency to maximize efforts and assist local governments and officials to slow the spread of the illness associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. This effort requires the coordination of every state agency, including the behavioral health community. Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs) play a critical role in the behavioral health needs of individuals in Michigan. In providing services it is critical for the PIHP/CMH provider network to both prepare for the COVID-19 spread of physical illness, while continually assessing the psychological impact of COVID-19 on the community and on response personnel, given the well-recognized phenomenon that emergencies like this can affect people psychologically and physically.

In Michigan, CMHSPs are required to coordinate Disaster Behavioral Health in collaboration with local emergency management and with other local response agencies/organizations. CMHSPs may need to provide emergency response support in collaboration with private sector or mental/behavioral health service providers and non-governmental organizations in accordance with **4.8 Disaster Behavioral Health CMHSP Responsibilities section of the CMHSP contract**. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Each CMH and provider should have a pandemic plan, and a continuity of operations plan (COOP). COOP is the dedicated plan for CMHSPs to provide essential functions during an emergency. Essential functions are the critical activities that must continue after disruption of normal activities. These plans need to be able to be implemented expeditiously.
- CMHs need to ensure that contractors are taking action now and implementing pandemic and COOP plans as appropriate.
- CMHs should follow the guidelines promulgated by the CDC and by Michigan's Chief Medical Executive and the Executive Orders of the Governor with regard to the management of activities and individuals who may be at risk of developing COVID-19 or are already symptomatic. The work of everyone is to slow the spread of this virus.
- Importantly PIHP/CMHs should be in regular **contact with their local health department** for any questions about COVID-19 or the COVID-19 response efforts of their jurisdiction. Contact information for your local health department can be found [here](#).
- Additionally, PIHP/CMHs should identify at least one key personnel to receive alerts through the Michigan Health Alert Network (MiHAN) so that important information from the state can be received, and so that the state can periodically receive critical information about local experiences.

Most importantly, it is important to recognize that staff at the PIHP/CMHs are working tirelessly for the people they serve, and while doing so, attention to employee well-being must also be recognized. Resources for physical and behavioral health will continue to be updated via the Michigan.gov/coronavirus website and on the Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN).