



Community
MENTAL HEALTH
CLINTON • EATON • INGHAM

Dear Provider,

Thank you for your continued dedication to the people we serve during this unprecedented period of time. Please read the updates below carefully and reach out to your Quality Advisor or qcsrr-qa@ceicmh.org if you have any questions.

Use of Masks/Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

On Tuesday, 3/24, CMHA-CEI's Medical Director issued the following guidance regarding mask usage:

"If you are not going to be working in-person with patients for CMHA-CEI during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may disregard this email. For those of you who are working in-person with patients, please read on.

While anyone with a non-urgent need is being screened at facility entrances and asked to obtain services via non-in-person means, residential facilities and emergent facilities, such as Crisis Services, must continue to provide care even to those persons who screen positive for symptoms of respiratory illness. Additionally, some medical care, such as injections, may need to be provided.

As you are likely aware, the current COVID-19 pandemic is causing shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE). CMHA-CEI is continuing to work with our partners, including the state and the county health departments to obtain more equipment, but at this time we need to take steps to conserve the equipment we do have. **Consequently, here are the current expectations for staff caring for a patient with symptoms of acute respiratory illness:**

- If a patient has active respiratory symptoms, the staff member should put on gloves and a surgical mask if one is available. The symptomatic patient should continue to be masked at screening entry points.
- When the staff member has completed care of the symptomatic patient, if the staff member will be moving to care for another patient with respiratory symptoms without a healthy patient in between, the mask should be left on.
 - Otherwise, the surgical mask should be carefully removed, folded so that the outside of the mask is touching itself and covering itself, then placed in a paper bag to be reused **ONLY** by the same staff member.
 - When that staff member must next care for a patient with respiratory symptoms they should carefully remove the mask from the bag and re-wear it.

- Immediately upon donning a previously used mask or doffing (removing) any mask, staff members should wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand rub.
- If during the course of use of a mask, the mask becomes visibly soiled or difficult to breathe through, the mask should be replaced.

Staff who are caring for patients who are **not symptomatic** of respiratory illness should not wear a mask.

We recognize that this guidance, particularly re-use of masks, is not ideal, but this is as per CDC guidance in an equipment shortage."

If you are struggling to find surgical masks or other PPE, please let us know (email qcsrr-qa@ceicmh.org) and we will do our best to assist.

MDHHS BHDDA Guidance on Essential Behavioral Health Services

You may be aware that late in the day on Wednesday, 3/25 the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service's Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities Administration released guidance defining essential behavioral health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. CMHA-CEI is reviewing this guidance internally and consulting regionally. We will provide additional detail and guidance to our providers as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to providing services to CMHA-CEI consumers.

Thank you,

Joyce Tunnard
Director of Quality, Customer Service, and Recipient Rights
Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham Counties