



# Arkansas Department of Health

## Arkansas Department of Human Services



To: Behavioral Health Adult Day Treatment Facilities

From: Dr. Nate Smith, Secretary of Health  
Cindy Gillespie, Secretary of Human Services

Date: April 7, 2020

Subject: COVID-19 Guidance for Day Treatment Facilities in Behavioral Health

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. People who have serious chronic medical conditions are believed to be at higher risk. Adults with Serious Mental Illness attending day program may be at higher risk for serious illness due to comorbid health conditions including diabetes, chronic lung disease, and heart disease, therefore it is imperative that appropriate protective measures must be in place to protect this population. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) is providing guidance to the day treatment facilities for adults throughout the state on proactive measures, including new screening recommendations for staff and visitors. Taking these proactive measures will help limit the spread of COVID-19 and safeguard adults and their families.

- It is recommended facilities should prohibit persons from the facility with the exception of:
  - Facility staff;
  - Persons with a legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, and Adult Protective Services;
  - Clients enrolled at the facility; and
  - Legal guardians who have dependents enrolled and present at the facility.
- Pickup and drop-off clients outside of the facility if possible, unless it is determined that there is a legitimate need to enter a facility.
- All efforts should be made to limit congregation of clients and class sizes to 10 or less.
- Observe social distancing as much as possible; maintain 6 feet between clients and staff as able.
- Clients and staff should wear cloth face masks whenever possible and reasonable, to diminish potential spread from people who might be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic for COVID-19.
- **Do not allow sick client to be cared for in the facility.** If a client becomes sick while at the facility, arrange for the client to be transported home immediately and separate the client from others at the facility.
- Ensure that each adult is provided individual meals and snacks. Do not serve family style meals.

## Screening criteria

Before allowing entry into the facility, screen all individuals listed above, including taking the temperature of each person upon arrival at the facility each day. For employees, screening should be done prior to every shift. Deny entry to any person who meets any of the following criteria:

- A temperature of 100.4°F or above;
- Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever;
- In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 or someone who is currently being tested for COVID-19;
- In the previous 14 days has traveled outside of the United States or to areas in the US with widespread transmission such as New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut and New Orleans.

ADH and DHS will continue to closely monitor the evolving novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. As the situation is rapidly changing, day treatment providers may call the ADH COVID-19 Call Center with questions about COVID-19 at 1-800-803-7847. Please contact Tammy Alexander at the Department of Human Services Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Services at 501-396-6310 or TAMMY.ALEXANDER@dhs.arkansas.gov for questions specific to the operations of day treatment facilities.

COVID-19 Information:

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus>

General Protection Guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Helpful information on talking with children about COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>