

## Behavioral Health

**1. What are the recommendations or guidelines for County funded substance use disorder treatment facilities, both residential and outpatient programs that utilize group interventions during COVID-19?**

Behavioral Health contracted programs should talk with their specific Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) about recommendations. A guidance to behavioral health providers was issued on March 13, 2020, and can be found in the [Behavioral Guidance Note](#).

**2. Will there be an expansion of detox or other residential options?**

There is varying availability throughout programs in accepting new admissions in residential facilities while maintaining physical distancing requirements. Outpatient and intensive outpatient services continue to be offered. Many programs have transitioned to providing services via telephone or internet. Federally Qualified Health Centers continue to provide services as well and are an option for referrals. It is unlikely there will be expanded network capacity while maintaining physical distancing at the same time. The County continues to work with providers to increase movement through the system and ramp up outpatient capacity for withdrawal management services.

**3. Are the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams still taking referrals?**

Yes, ACT teams are still taking referrals.

**4. What is the Access and Crisis Line number?**

The Access and Crisis Line is 1-888-724-7240.

**5. Is there a BHS outreach team?**

There are several Behavioral Health Services outreach workers that work with various behavioral health programs in the County.

**6. Are there beds available for clients placed in substance use disorder treatment programs who would otherwise be homeless? Is there a way clients that are in detox centers or long-term treatment can extend their stay?**

The capacity for residential treatment beds under the current COVID-19 climate has been reduced to incorporate physical distancing in congregate settings. There is capacity available for clients that meet American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria for this level of care. Clients can receive withdrawal management (WM) services as long as it is clinically indicated. If the client is homeless and meets the ASAM criteria for a residential treatment level of care, they can be linked to a residential program once discharged from WM services. If a client no longer needs a residential level of care, they can be linked to an intensive outpatient or outpatient program for continued treatment and access to Recovery Residence.

**7. Are there additional resources for people who are homeless, have substance use and/or mental health issues, beyond those available through 2-1-1?**

Please continue to access 2-1-1 and reach out to your nearest homeless service provider to stay current on emerging resources. For people who have a behavioral health concern, please contact the Access and Crisis Line at 1-888-724-7240. More information on resources for unsheltered can be found in the Q&As under Temporary Housing. Resources are provided at Homeless Sector tele-briefings and weekly emails. For information from the County of San Diego Behavioral Health Resources (BHS) including the San Diego Access & Crisis Line (ACL), It's Up to Us San Diego, and many more, [please view this flyer](#). Additionally, [postcards](#) are available for information about Behavioral Health Services during COVID-19. If interested in printed copies of the BHS flyer and/or postcard, please email a request to [COVID-Homeless@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:COVID-Homeless@sdcounty.ca.gov).