



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Lori Criss, *Director*

April 6, 2020

>>> Governor Signs TeleHealth Executive Order

On Friday, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine [signed an executive order](#) that will allow Ohioans to more easily access telehealth services from individual counselors, social workers, and marriage and family counselors. In normal circumstances, a patient must have had a face-to-face first meeting and counselors and social workers before qualifying for a telehealth appointment; the providers would also be required to take special training in providing telehealth services. This order will enable those requirements to be removed so that patients can more easily access these needed services. "Mental health is just as important as physical health, and in this time of social distancing and stay at home orders, we are trying to ensure that those who need services can access them without leaving their homes," said Governor DeWine.



>>> Private Psychiatric Hospitals: Waiver of Telehealth, Staffing Ratios and Patient Admission Assessments

OhioMHAS will consider waivers for licensed private psychiatric hospitals in the areas of telehealth, staffing ratios, and patient admission assessments. The waivers will expire upon the rescinding of the Governor's Executive Order declaring a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitals must apply specifically for the waivers listed below by email. Send all requests to: Denise.Cole@mha.ohio.gov.

Waivers to be considered:

- Telehealth use for patient evaluation and management is allowable in an inpatient psychiatric setting to the extent that it supports a similar quality of patient care that is provided through the delivery of in-person psychiatric services. This would be accomplished by liaison with on-site clinical staff who are able to provide (through use of appropriate credentials and privileges) additional clinical information and patient support services. In-person evaluation by a psychiatrist or other qualified healthcare practitioner is necessary for the initial patient visit and following any major adverse event (suicidal behavior, episode of seclusion/restraint, significant adverse drug reaction, for example) and at the time of hospital discharge.
- OhioMHAS licensed private psychiatric inpatient providers may adjust staffing ratios in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5122-14-10(C)(3)(a) to a one to eight (1:8) minimum nursing staff-to-patient ratio to be maintained at all times. Ratios include a minimum of one RN on each unit at all times. Staff required to provide 1:1 patient observation shall not be included in the 1:8 ratio.
- In relation to patient admission assessments required to be completed within 24 hours of patient admission (OAC 5122-14-13(E)(2)), providers may complete these within 72 hours of patient admission. A physician or other qualified healthcare practitioner must see each patient within 24 hours of admission.

>>> *UPDATED LINKS* Resources for Adults, Parents and Families

During this challenging time in our state, it can be easy for anyone to become overwhelmed. Stress and anxiety can make it hard to cope, and sometimes many of us may question where we can get the help we need. The Ohio Department of Health has set up multiple pages with resources for anyone who is looking for help and guidance. On [Coronavirus.Ohio.Gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov), there are resources for adults (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/coping-with-covid-19-anxiety/resources-for-adults-coping-with-the-covid-19-pandemic>), parents, and families (<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/families-and-individuals/resources-for-parents-and-families/resources-for-parents-and-families>) on how to cope with COVID-19 related anxiety.

These resources include, but are not limited to the following:

- online support groups,
- recovery support apps,
- guidance on tapping into financial support, and
- various hotlines for those who may be in a crisis or just need someone to talk to.

Please utilize these resources and share them with others as we navigate this time together.

For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov.

In the News

- 4.6.20 | *Ohio Capital Journal* [Telemedicine booms as Ohioans stay home](#)
- 4.5.20 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Mental health care expands in pandemic through telemedicine](#)
- 4.4.20 | *PBS News Hour* [Dorothea Dix's tireless fight to end inhumane treatment for mental health patients](#)
- 4.4.20 | *Dayton Daily News* [Governor signs order allowing counselors, social worker to telework](#)
- 4.3.20 | *Cleveland Magazine* [How addiction treatment services are helping Clevelanders stay sober during COVID-19](#)
- 4.3.20 | *Athens Messenger* [Addiction recovery advocates use telehealth for support](#)
- 4.3.20 | *WNWO-TV* [Lucas County adding resources to help people deal with mental health during isolation](#)
- 4.2.20 | *WSYX-TV* [Treatment for people in recovery doesn't stop during coronavirus pandemic](#)
- 4.2.20 | *Lancaster Eagle-Gazette* [COVID-19 presents challenges for those in recovery](#)

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