



March 2, 2023

Standardized Admission and Discharge Process Between the California Department of State Hospitals and the County Jails

Purpose

In response to the changing protocols from the California Department of Public Health regarding the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) will no longer require testing prior to transfer for asymptomatic patients. However, because COVID-19 remains a potential threat we need to continue to monitor for positive cases and be prepared to respond to any COVID surge.

The purpose of this memorandum is to update COVID-19 testing requirements to only require testing of symptomatic patients regardless of the vaccination status prior to transfer between DSH facilities and jail facilities.

DSH Discharges to Jails

1. Department of State Hospitals will complete the DSH Infectious Disease Clearance Memo prior to discharging. The DSH Infectious Disease Discharge Clearance Memo will be faxed/emailed to the jail. A copy of the DSH Infectious Disease Discharge Clearance Memo will also be provided to the transporting officer.
2. COVID-19 tests will be performed for any symptomatic patient or any patient with known exposure to COVID-19 within a clinically appropriate timeframe prior to discharge.
3. For any patient testing positive for COVID-19 during the discharge process, discharge to the county jail will be delayed while the patient isolates at the DSH Hospital until cleared.
4. If testing is refused by a symptomatic patient or patient with known COVID exposure the DSH Infectious Disease screening will be conducted by DSH and the patient will not be transported with patients who have tested negative.
5. If DSH experiences an outbreak resulting in suspension of admissions and discharges, stakeholders will be notified.

Discharges from Jails to DSH

1. The county jails will perform Infectious Disease screening prior to transferring inmates/patients to a DSH facility. The DSH Infectious Disease Admission Clearance Memo along with any COVID-19 test results documentation, if indicated, will be faxed/mailed to the receiving DSH facility two days prior to the scheduled transport or on Friday for Monday transports.
2. A copy of the DSH Infectious Disease Admission Clearance Memo and any test results, if indicated will also be included in the admission packet that is routinely provided to DSH by the transport office.
3. Tests must be performed for symptomatic inmates/patients or any inmate/patient with known exposure to COVID-19 within a clinically appropriate timeframe (generally within 7 days) prior to discharge, in alignment with public health guidelines. Tests not performed within this timeframe may be considered based on clinical discussion and determination of risk.
4. Due to space limitations, there will be no pre-discharge quarantine/sequestration required.
5. For any inmate/patient testing positive for COVID-19 during the discharge process, transfer to the DSH facility will be delayed while the inmate/patient isolates at the county jail until cleared by both parties (cleared medically by the jail and cleared/accepted by DSH).
6. Any inmate/patient in isolation because they are a Person Under Investigation (PUI) shall not be transferred to a DSH facility until cleared by both parties (cleared medically by the jail and cleared/accepted by DSH).
7. A patient in a quarantined unit should not be transferred until the quarantine is lifted. If testing is refused, COVID-19 screening will be conducted by the county jail and the inmate/patient will not be transported with inmates/patients who have tested negative.
8. DSH's admission rates will be based on each facility's ability to screen and test patients before they can be transferred to a treatment program. DSH's admissions will also be dependent upon continued availability of testing supplies and personal protective equipment. Additionally, any COVID-19 transmission within the facilities may impact the rate of admissions due to requirements to quarantine impacted units and the need to do contact tracing and further testing.

DSH Admissions

1. Each admission will be:
 - a. Screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before being placed on their treatment unit.
 - b. Tested for COVID-19 upon admission and at days 3 and 5 days after admission.
 - c. Patients who are symptomatic at the time of admission will be assigned to a single-patient dorm or a single-patient room for

further COVID-19 monitoring and testing to limit potential spread of COVID-19, unless extenuating circumstances temporarily causes a deviation to this practice.

2. If a patient subsequently develops symptoms, they will be moved to the room designated for persons under investigation pending outcome of COVID testing.
3. If a patient subsequently tests positive, they will be moved to isolation.
4. There are many forensic commitment patients awaiting admission to DSH. DSH will prioritize Offenders with Mental Health Disorder (OMD) patients, then patients revoked from outpatient status in its Conditional Release Program, and current DSH patients returning from court leave. In addition, DSH may prioritize a patient if a patient has been deemed psychiatrically acute by the Department's medical director or designee through the process in title 9 California Code of Regulations section 4717. Next, individuals referred as Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST), Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGI), and Sexually Violent Predators (SVPs) will be admitted based on commitment date order. LPS patients will be admitted as individual discharges occur at the hospitals.
5. DSH's admission rates will be based on each facility's ability to screen, and test patients before they can be transferred to a treatment program.
6. DSH's admissions will also be dependent upon continued adequate testing supplies and personal protective equipment.
7. Additionally, any COVID-19 transmission within the facilities may impact the rate of patient admissions due to requirements to quarantine impacted units and the need to do contact tracing and further testing.
8. DSH will continue to monitor guidance and evaluate its admissions processes and may modify its admissions process at any time to further improve safety for its patients and team members.