



Memorandum

Date: February 3, 2022

Subject: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE ON RESUMPTION OF ADMISSIONS AT DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS (DSH)-NAPA AND EXTENSION OF SUSPENSION OF PATIENT ADMISSIONS TO OTHER DSH STATE HOSPITALS

The Director of the Department State Hospitals (DSH) is issuing this directive pursuant to Governor Gavin Newsom’s Proclamation of a State of Emergency dated March 4, 2020, and Executive Order N-35-20 issued March 21, 2020. To ensure that patients with mental health disorders currently in DSH’s custody continue to receive the services and support that are threatened by disruptions caused by COVID-19, in particular the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, and to protect the health, safety and welfare of those patients, the Director is extending the suspension of admissions of patients committed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions section 5358 (a)(2); Welfare and Institutions section 6600, et seq; Penal Code section 1370, et seq; and Penal Code section 1026 at DSH-Atascadero, DSH-Coalinga, DSH-Metropolitan and DSH-Patton through March 4, 2022 unless conditions at each state hospital allow for admissions to resume before that date.

It is the intent of the Department to resume admissions as soon as safely possible to each of the State Hospitals. Each State Hospital continues to experience different levels of impact from the Omicron variant and it is the intent to resume admissions at each hospital as conditions permit over the course of the month of February. As of January 28, 2022, DSH-Napa has resumed admissions. The Department will post on its website and communicate with its criminal justice partners when the other State Hospitals are ready to begin accepting admissions dependent upon improving COVID-19 conditions at each State Hospital.

This partial extension of the suspension is necessary due to the significant number of DSH staff continuing to test positive due to the continued significant community transmission throughout California caused by the Omicron variant. With a high number of staff cases, a significant number of DSH’s admissions units and treatment units are quarantined. Additionally,



DSH is also experiencing an increased number of patients testing positive for COVID-19 and DSH utilizes its Admission Units as isolation surge capacity as individual hospital COVID-19 circumstances warrant.

DSH's continued partial extension of suspension of admissions will also decrease the movement of patients throughout the state and help to reduce the potential for widespread introduction or transmission of the Omicron COVID-19 variant between the criminal justice partners (jails, prisons, and courts) that also serve DSH patients. This will further assist in decreasing the burden of additional COVID-19 serious infections on California's community hospital systems.

During the period of partial extension of suspended admissions, if there is a patient who is currently committed to a DSH facility but out to court and ready to return, DSH will work with the sending jail on a case-by-case basis as to whether to re-admit these patients, if DSH can ensure re-admission will not threaten to introduce or transmit COVID-19. The DSH Director retains the sole discretion as to whether to re-admit such patients during this period of suspended admissions. Discharges from the State Hospitals will occur as conditions permit.

During the period of partial extension of suspension of patient admissions, if an Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) patient currently designated for placement at DSH is psychiatrically acute, the Director may exercise discretion to admit that patient on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with Title 9, section 4717. The committing clinician responsible for that individual's clinical assessment should contact the DSH Medical Director, or designee, about the individual's psychiatric acuity and provide medical information and documentation that supports such acuity.

The points of contact for this process is:

DSH-Atascadero Forensic Department - (805) 468-2895 or (805) 486-3186

DSH-Coalinga Forensic Admission/Transfer Coordinator – (559) 580-0153

DSH-Patton Admissions Suite - (909) 425-7389 or (909) 286-2184

DSH-Metropolitan Admissions Suite - (562) 584-7032 or (562) 474-2583

DSH-Sacramento Patient Management Unit - courtreferrals@dsh.ca.gov

The Director, or her designee, is the final authority for determining psychiatric acuity of an IST patient for purposes of granting an exception to the suspension of IST patient admissions to a DSH facility.



This partial extension of suspension of patient admissions will remain in effect until March 4, 2022 unless lifted earlier by the Director.

Please contact DSH's Office of Communications if you have questions, at (916) 654-2410 or at OfficeofCommunications@dsh.ca.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Clendenin'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN
Director