



## Memorandum

**Date:** March 23, 2020

**Subject:** DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE ON SUSPENSION OF INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL PATIENT ADMISSIONS

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, the Director of the Department of State Hospitals issues this Directive in accordance with the Director's authority to waive any provision or requirement of the Welfare and Institutions Code; any provision or requirement of the Penal Code that affects the execution of laws relating to care, custody, and treatment of persons with mental illness committed to or in the custody of the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH), and the accompanying regulations of Title 9, Division 1 of the California Code of Regulations. 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, and to protect the health, safety and welfare of DSH's patients, the Department is suspending admission of patients committed to DSH facilities as defined by Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 4100 and 7200 as Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) pursuant to Penal Code sections 1370, and 1370.01, and 1370.1.

In addition, for individuals committed to DSH facilities as IST and pending admission to a DSH facility, for the next 30 days the Director of DSH suspends the 90-day timeframe within which DSH is to submit the report required pursuant to Penal Code sections 1370(b)(1), 1370.01(b), and 1370.1(b).

The Director of DSH also suspends the statutory requirement of Penal Code sections 1370(b)(1)(A), 1370(c)(1), 1370(e), 1372(a)(2) and (a)(3), 1370.01(c)(1), 1370.01(e), 1370.1(b)(2), and 1370.1(c)(1) to return any IST patient presently in DSH's custody until DSH rescinds the suspension of IST patient admissions. The Director of DSH maintains discretion to grant an exception to the suspension of release of IST patients on a case-by-case basis if DSH can ensure the safety of the patient seeking discharge, and the safety of the receiving facility to accept the patient, to prevent the further introduction or transmission of COVID-19.

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During the period of suspended admissions of IST patients, if there is a IST patient who is currently committed to DSH facilities but out to court, or out to medical, and ready to return, DSH will work with the sending facility 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.

During the period of suspended IST patient admissions, if an 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 are as follows:

DSH-Napa Admissions Suite - (707) 253-5464

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

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

DSH-Atascadero Forensic Department - (805) 468-2084

DSH-Sacramento Patient Management Unit -

PC1370referrals@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.

With this suspension of IST patient admissions and discharges, DSH is ensuring the safety of its current patients, and those in custody of the committing counties the patient would return to, by instead, directing all patients to remain in place. DSH is also decreasing the risk of transmission or introduction of COVID-19 to its facilities, as well as the committing county facilities, by decreasing movement of patients throughout the state. As committing counties are currently suspending transporting or receiving patients, DSH's decrease in the movement of patients throughout the state, will also help to reduce the potential for widespread introduction or transmission of COVID-19, in collaboration with its criminal justice partners, by allowing patients to remain in place. This suspension of IST patient admissions will remain in effect for 30 days, unless extended by the Director of the Department.

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



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Clendenin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN  
Director