



PROVIDER ALERT

OTPs and Congregate Living Facilities Including RRP Reporting Positive COVID-19 Test Results

April 13, 2021

Optum Maryland and the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) would like to remind providers of the mandatory reporting of COVID-19 positive test results.

Behavioral Health Providers: We remain in a Public Health Emergency, and there continues to be significant community spread of COVID-19, and variants of concern, across our state. By memo dated [September 15, 2020, from the Deputy Secretary to providers](#), OTPs and Congregate Living Facilities were advised of the mandatory reporting of COVID-19 positive test results.

It has been brought to BHA's attention that some behavioral health providers have not been reporting positive COVID-19 test results and/or not cooperating with local health department investigations surrounding the positive tests or recommendations to address the outbreak. **By statute and regulations, if a congregate living facility or health care provider is aware of a positive COVID-19 test result, the facility or health care provider must report the information to the Health Officer of the County where the facility is located.** If your program experiences a positive case, you must contact your Local Health Department for their recommendations for testing, isolation, and quarantining of patients and/or staff. Their guidance regarding admissions and when staff may return to work after a positive test result should be obtained and followed. Additionally, BHA will provide technical support and assistance as needed. **Failure to cooperate may subject the facility and health care provider to disciplinary action.**

In addition to reporting to the Local Health Department, the following programs are to report the positive test result(s) to BHA and the appropriate LBHA/LAA and CSA:

- Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)
- Residential Crisis Beds
- ASAM SUD Residential Programs

- Group Homes
- Recovery Residences
- Residential Rehabilitation Programs (RRPs)
- Other congregate living facilities.

All referenced program types are to utilize the [Positive COVID-19 Test Reporting Form](#) found on the [BHA website](#).

This reporting requirement is effective immediately. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact BHA Medical Director, Dr. Steve Whitefield at Steven.Whitefield@Maryland.gov.

BHA may pursue disciplinary action against non-compliant providers. In addition, non-compliant providers may be deemed not eligible for funding made available to assist providers with COVID-19 related issues.