



Memorandum

Date: January 12, 2021

Subject: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE ON SUSPENSION OF PATIENT ADMISSIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS-COALINGA

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, and to protect the health, safety and welfare of those patients, the Director is suspending the admission of patients committed pursuant to Welfare and Institutions section 6600, et seq, to Department of State Hospitals-Coalinga (DSH-C) for the next 30 days. With this suspension of patient admissions to DSH-C, DSH is ensuring the safety of its current patients. DSH is also decreasing the risk of transmission or introduction of COVID-19 to its facilities.

With this suspension of patient admissions to DSH-C, DSH is ensuring the safety of its current patients by decreasing the risk of transmission or introduction of COVID-19 to its facilities.

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 and allow the hospitals to keep any transmission of COVID-19 to a minimum, decreasing the burden on community hospital systems.

During the period of suspended admissions, if there is a patient who is currently committed to DSH-C 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.

This suspension of patient admissions will remain in effect for 30 days.

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 that reads "S Clend". The signature is fluid and cursive.

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN
Director