



Memorandum

Date: March 26, 2020

Subject: DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE ON SUSPENSION OF ADMISSIONS FROM THE DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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 execute laws relating to the care and treatment of persons with mental health disorders placed with the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH). 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 Department is suspending its admission of individuals from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) placed at DSH facilities pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code Section 1756 (wards).

During the period of suspended ward admissions, if a ward currently referred by DJJ for treatment at a DSH facility is out to court, or out to medical, and is ready to return, DSH will work with the sending facility on a case-by-case basis as to whether to re-admit these wards, if DSH can ensure re-admission will not threaten to introduce or transmit COVID-19. The Director, or her designee, retains the sole discretion as to whether to re-admit such wards during this period of suspended admissions.

During the period of suspended ward admissions, if a ward becomes psychiatrically acute DJJ may contact DSH as outlined in the Standard Agreement Number 18-00047 for consideration of emergency placement. The Director, or her designee, may exercise discretion to admit that ward on a case by case basis and is the final authority for determining psychiatric acuity of a ward for purposes of granting an exception to the suspension of ward admissions.

All wards currently housed at DSH will not be discharged until DSH rescinds the suspension of ward admissions, unless there is an emergency discharge.



This suspension of ward admissions will remain in effect for 30 days, unless extended by the Director of the Department.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Clendenin", written in a cursive style.

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN
Director