



## Memorandum

**Date:** April 15, 2020

**Subject:** DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE EXTENDING SUSPENSION OF LANTERMAN PETRIS SHORT ACT PATIENT ADMISSIONS

Pursuant to Governor Gavin Newsom's Proclamation of a State of Emergency dated March 4, 2020, and 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), on March 16, 2020, the DSH Director issued a Directive suspending admission of patients placed at DSH facilities as civil committees pursuant to the Lanterman Petris Short (LPS) Act, Welfare and Institutions Code section 5358, subdivision (a)(2). As the State of Emergency remains in effect, and since then the Governor has further extended the authority of the Director of the Department of State Hospitals pursuant to Executive Order N-35-20, 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 now extending that suspension of admission of LPS Act patients.

All LPS patients presently in DSH's custody will not be discharged until DSH rescinds the suspension of LPS patient admissions, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The DSH Director retains the sole discretion as to whether exceptional circumstances support the discharge of an LPS patient during this period of suspended admissions. During this period of suspension, DSH will continue to prepare patients for discharge.

During the period of suspended LPS patient admissions, if an LPS 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. 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 point of contacts 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

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

This extension of the suspension of LPS patient admissions will remain in effect for up to 30 days, unless further modified or 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, appearing to read "S Clendenin".

STEPHANIE CLENDENIN  
Director