



# **Behavioral Health Services COVID Check In**

Department of Health Services  
Behavioral Health Services

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# Evolving Situation

- Working in collaboration with Public Health
- Materials provided 3/10
  - Employee Health & Safety Reminders
  - Consumer Visitor & Screening
  - Consumer Health & Safety
- Advocacy with DHCS
- Telehealth Info Notice 3/16
- DHCS Info Notice [20-009](#)
- Sac County and Governor's Stay at Home Order – 3/19

# DHCS Flexibility

- Phone-based and telehealth wherever possible
- HIPAA Flexibilities
- Methadone home delivery
- 100 day of supply of medications
- Requested under 3/20/2020 1135 waiver:
  - SMI/SED IMD Waiver
  - CPE Protocol and financing changes
  - Flexibility on reporting requirements
  - Expansion of individual counseling for SUD providers
- <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/Pages/DHCS-COVID%E2%80%9119-Response.aspx>

# Challenges

- Federal, state and local funding likely to be impacted due to economic impacts
- Community members' loss of employment
- More individuals will qualify for Medi-Cal
- More individual and collective trauma
- Strain on already scarce workforce
- New and emerging BH needs for services

# Outstanding COVID Needs

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Funding under SB 89
  - Proposal: \$100 M of \$1 B total for
    - Counties to support critical BH infrastructure impacted by COVID-19 and not fundable through other sources
- MHSA Flexibility?
- Homeless populations

# Where We Are

- Thank you for your resilience!
- Behavioral Health Services are essential services for Sacramento County
- Telephonic and Telehealth video services where possible
- Otherwise, screen for symptoms prior to entry

# Stay Connected

- Use our technology tools to stay connected
  - Our teams, our families and friends
  - Our consumers
- **TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES AND BE WELL!**

# Contracts

- Request for alternate reimbursement structure



# Acknowledging Provider Challenges

- Units are down
  - Limited to telephone services
  - Children's providers
- Staffing issues