

BCJPD-MHAT Residency COVID-19/Pandemic Safety Precautions and Measures

Due to the evolving nature of COVID-19 and workplace procedures, Residents are directed to contact their Training Director and BCJPD – Human Resources ((210) 335-1814 or jvhumanresources@bexar.org) should they have any questions, experience symptoms, or have known exposure to someone who has tested positively for COVID-19. The following are current guidelines but **may be subject to change**.

General Course of Action:

Residents are designated essential personnel, as are all BCJPD employees, and thus are expected to complete their duties as outlined in the BCJPD-MHAT Resident Guide, BCJPD – Human Resources Handbook, and as directed by their supervisors; this includes providing services to detained youth to the highest standard of care. Residents will perform their job duties on-site and as directed by their supervisors, unless otherwise notified.

In the event that a Resident believes they cannot perform their assigned duties, they must submit documentation to BCJPD – Human Resources at jvhumanresources@bexar.org. Concerns regarding health conditions should be directed to BCJPD – HR at jvhumanresources@bexar.org in order to discuss the Americans with Disabilities Act interactive process.

Safety Precautions

- Residents are provided 2 reusable facial coverings and hand sanitizer. Disinfectant spray is provided for the unit and is available in the Testing office, which Residents have access to.
- Residents are responsible for:
 - Wearing a facial covering over their noses and mouths when entering county buildings and when in spaces where unable to maintain six (6) feet distance from other people.
 - Residents are to wear surgical masks when working with youth in the Detention Center. The Clinical Manager of Detention has masks in their office, located upstairs in the Detention Center. The Clinical Manager will provide further instruction.
 - Washing hands properly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when visibly soiled, before eating, and after using the restroom.
 - Maintaining safe social distance of at least 3 feet, as is possible.
 - Disinfecting any materials brought into the Detention Center.
 - Complying with directions from Detention Officers and staff, particularly regarding distancing and cleaning areas.
 - Residents should not come into work if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and are to notify their supervisor, who will notify HR.

- Seeking medical attention as warranted.
- Remaining cautious and careful both at work and outside of work.
- Many treatment teams, didactic trainings, and supervisions will be moved to video teleconferencing so as to limit additional adult contact; those that remain in person allow for 6' of distance between participants and all are to wear masks.
- Residents will not perform duties directly on a Detention MOD on containment. Youth who are on a containment MOD will not be seen for testing or in-person therapy until the MOD is cleared.
- Residents and youth will wear facial coverings during testing and therapy sessions.
- Facial coverings do not need to be worn when performing functions outdoors so long as social distancing is maintained.
- A person entering a county facility will be asked certain COVID-19 risk-related questions and their temperatures will be checked.
 - Any individual who positively screens for a COVID-19 risk factor will not be allowed to enter the building.
 - An employee who is denied entry should immediately contact their supervisor/Training Director for further instructions.
- The Facilities Management Department has implemented enhanced cleaning and sanitizing measures throughout Bexar County facilities with a focus on areas most frequented by the public and in office spaces. Hand sanitizer is located throughout the facility.
 - When providing services in the Detention Center, visitation rooms are cleaned by Detention Officers or staff between each youth.

What if...?

- **I, or someone living with me, test positive for COVID-19?**

If an employee, or someone living with the employee, tests positive for COVID-19, the employee should stay home from work, contact the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District COVID-19 Hotline at (210) 207-5779, and report the information to his or her Supervisor (Training Director for MHAT Residents) as soon as possible. The Supervisor should immediately report the information to their chain of command and BCJPD – HR at jvhumanresources@bexar.org.

- **I, or someone living with me, have symptoms of COVID-19?**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, a sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea. If an employee, or someone living with an employee, has symptoms of COVID-19, the employee should notify their supervisor who will notify Human Resources and contact the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District COVID-19 Hotline at (210) 207-5779 for guidance.

- **I have been exposed to COVID-19?**

Exposure to an infected person is defined as living in the same household or having close contact with someone who has received a positive COVID-19 (not antibody) test result. Close contact is defined as having been within 6 feet of an infected person, for a prolonged period of time, or having direct contact (e.g., being coughed on) within 48 hours before the infected person became symptomatic. If you have been exposed to COVID-19 as defined above, contact your supervisor and BCJPD – Human Resources at jvhumanresources@bexar.org or (210) 335-1814.

In the event that an employee or detained youth test positively for COVID-19, contact tracing based on the above criteria will be performed. If you are not notified, then it has been determined that you did not have close contact and need not take any further action. Nevertheless, if you have concerns, please let your supervisor know and he or she will assist you.

- **I am ready to return to work?**

BCJPD is following the CDC guidelines for symptom-based return to work for health professionals and first responders. BCJPD – HR will direct you and your supervisor on return to work procedures and any required documentation.

- **The city or county order a lockdown/shelter-in-place?**

In the event of a lockdown/shelter-in-place directive, Residents will receive further instruction from their Training Director and/or the Deputy Chief of Mental Health Services. Steps will be taken to maintain Residency training and supervision, as well as provision of care to clients.

In the event of a lock-down/shelter-in-place

- As noted above, Residents are to follow directives of their TD and HR. In the event of a lock-down due to COVID-19, the following changes as *possible*. This list is not exhaustive, nor is every item guaranteed. Residents will be given further instruction if the need arises and are to follow the directives set forth at that time.
- Possible curriculum changes may include:
 - Limited to no access to youth in the Detention Center
 - Conducting individual therapy with a limited caseload via telehealth
 - The suspension of group therapies
 - The suspension of assessment cases
 - Mock exercises, such as assessment scoring, interviewing, report writing; court testifying; court consultation, etc.
 - Provision of psychoeducational and/or support groups to Probation Officers and staff

- Presenting trainings on various psychological topics to Probation Officers and staff
- Changes/updates to what counts as direct contact hours, as guided by APPIC and APA
- Changes to on-site requirements and the possibility of remote work