



Department of
HUMAN SERVICES

Mental Health and Disability Services
Easing Facility Restrictions

Effective June 15, 2020
Updated September 15, 2020

In March 2020, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) implemented safety measures that restricted operations at all six (6) facilities within the Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Division. This was done so as to mitigate and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic, DHS has worked closely with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA), and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) to ensure staff and patient safety. DHS utilized guidelines developed by IDPH and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the planning and implementation of safety measures.

DHS is now poised to begin phased easing of restrictions for key components of facility operation that have been affected by COVID-19. Employees, individuals served, and their families/guardians will receive communication (verbally and/or in writing) regarding changes as they are implemented.

This document outlines the overarching framework for easing restrictions across the DHS facilities. Appendix A includes additional facility-specific strategies.

Phase 1

Phase 1 is designed for infection control during periods of heightened virus spread/infection.

Area	Mitigation Strategies
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHS considers all facility staff essential. All facility staff are required to be screened for COVID-19 prior to entry into facility buildings. Screening includes a questionnaire related to signs/symptoms, travel/exposure, and a temperature check. All individuals served are screened for COVID-19 (including a temperature check) on a daily basis.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All facility staff are required to wear a cloth or general/procedural mask whenever in facility buildings. This includes contract personnel on-campus. Facility staff entering patient living areas may be required to utilize additional PPE such as gowns, gloves, and/or face shields.
Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new admissions are screened for COVID-19 signs/symptoms (include a temperature check). NOTE: <i>Facilities request COVID-19 testing prior to admission but <u>require</u> via the jail and juvenile services systems for admission into the state mental health institutes or the state training school, respectively.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new admissions must quarantine for a minimum of fourteen (14) days before further movement within the facility. Essential services are provided within the quarantine area as required.
Visitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person visitation is prohibited. The DHS Director will consider exceptions to this prohibition in limited circumstances, and only in those circumstances that necessitate the individual's need to experience face-to-face interaction with their loved ones, while considering the risk to that individual and the remainder of the facility population/campus. Facilities have employed the use of video/telephonic visitation to offset the prohibition of in-person visitation.
Medical Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Telemedicine is utilized whenever possible. Only medically necessary or emergent appointments are allowed at this time. No elective appointments are allowed. Staff and patients must utilize appropriate PPE (at least using a cloth or general/procedural mask) for the duration of any medically necessary appointments/transports. Quarantining to occur when appropriate.
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All non-essential outings and external employment opportunities are prohibited. NOTE: <i>For facilities that utilize Temporary Home Visits as part of the reintegration process, said visits <u>may</u> be authorized by the Director with the expectation that the individual adhere to social distancing guidelines, appropriate use of face coverings, etc., throughout the visit. Upon return to the facility, the individual would be screened per facility protocol.</i> Facilities attempt to minimize the number of participants in any singular space to include recreation, treatment, and dining. Use of technology to deliver essential services is encouraged. This includes education, telemedicine, etc.
COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities continue to progressively test all residents on an initial basis. Continued testing protocols related to frequency and need are being developed for implementation beyond the current pandemic state.
COVID-19 Exposure / Positive Test Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities follow IDPH and CDC guidelines regarding care and treatment for individuals who are exposed or test positive. Quarantine, cohorting, use of PPE, and leave (for employees) are options available to prevent or mitigate further transmission.

Phase 2

Phase 2 can begin when the following has occurred or is available at a given facility:

- At least fourteen (14) days have passed since the last positive case **transmitted at the facility** was identified amongst both individuals served and staff.
- The facility maintains adequate staffing levels.
- The facility maintains adequate supply of necessary PPE.
- The facility maintains the ability to cohort individuals suspected or positive for COVID-19.
- Local hospitals have the ability to accept referrals for additional care/treatment if necessary.

Area	Mitigation Strategies
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS considers all facility staff essential. • All facility staff are required to be screened for COVID-19 prior to entry into facility buildings. Screening includes a questionnaire related to signs/symptoms, travel/exposure, and a temperature check. • All individuals served are screened for COVID-19 (including a temperature check) on a daily basis.
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All facility staff are required to wear a cloth or general/procedural mask whenever in facility buildings. This includes contract personnel on campus. • Facility staff entering patient living areas may also be required to utilize additional PPE such as gowns, gloves, and/or face shields.
Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new admissions are screened for COVID-19 signs/symptoms (include a temperature check). NOTE: <i>Facilities request COVID-19 testing prior to admission but <u>require</u> via the jail and juvenile services systems for admission into the state mental health institutes or the state training school, respectively.</i> • All new admissions must quarantine for a minimum of fourteen (14) days before further movement within the facility. Essential services are provided within the quarantine area as required.
Visitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person visitation is permitted in external or isolated areas. • Visitors must be screened (including a temperature check) for COVID-19. • Visitors must wash or disinfect hands prior to visitation. • Visitors must wear a general/procedural mask for the duration of the visit. • Visitation is non-contact.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitation areas will be cleaned/disinfected between visits. • The number of visitors will be limited based on space, staffing, environment, and IDPH and CDC guidelines (e.g. social distancing). • Facilities will continue the use of video/telephonic visitation as an alternative to in-person visitation.
Medical Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telemedicine is utilized whenever possible. • Only medically necessary or emergent appointments are allowed at this time. No elective appointments are allowed. • Staff and patients must utilize appropriate PPE (at least using a cloth or general/procedural mask) for the duration of any medically necessary appointments/transport. • Quarantining to occur when appropriate.
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-campus employment opportunities that involve contact with external products/partners are permitted with appropriate PPE, social distancing, screening, etc. • All non-essential outings and external employment opportunities remain prohibited. NOTE: <i>For facilities that utilize Temporary Home Visits as part of the reintegration process, said visits <u>may</u> be authorized by the Director with the expectation that the individual adhere to social distancing guidelines, appropriate use of face coverings, etc., throughout the visit. Upon return to the facility, the individual would be screened per facility protocol.</i> • Facilities attempt to minimize the number of participants in any singular space to include recreation, treatment, and dining. • Use of technology to deliver essential services is encouraged. This includes education, telemedicine, etc.
COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities continue to progressively test all residents on an initial basis. • Continued testing protocols related to frequency and need are being developed for implementation beyond the current pandemic state.
COVID-19 Exposure / Positive Test Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities follow IDPH and CDC guidelines regarding care and treatment for individuals who are or test positive. • Quarantine, cohorting, use of PPE, and leave (for employees) are options available to prevent/mitigate further transmission. • If a pattern [two (2) or more] of individuals served <u>or</u> staff are confirmed positive for COVID-19 with a reasonable belief transmission occurred at the facility, the facility will return to Phase 1. If after implementation

of Phase 2, no additional suspected or positive cases are confirmed, the facility can move to Phase 3.


Phase 3

The Expanded Easing phase can begin when the following has occurred or is available at a given facility:

- At least twenty-eight (28) days have passed since the last positive case **transmitted at the facility** was identified amongst both individuals served and staff.
- The facility maintains adequate staffing levels.
- The facility maintains adequate supply of necessary PPE.
- The facility maintains the ability to cohort individuals suspected or positive for COVID-19.
- Local hospitals have the ability to accept referrals for additional care/treatment if necessary.

Area	Mitigation Strategies
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS considers all facility staff essential. • All facility staff are required to be screened for COVID-19 prior to entry into facility buildings. Screening includes a questionnaire related to signs/symptoms, travel/exposure, and a temperature check. • All individuals served are screened for COVID-19 (including a temperature check) on a daily basis.
PPE Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All facility staff are required to wear a cloth or general/procedural mask whenever in facility buildings. This includes contract personnel on-campus. • Facility staff entering patient living areas may also be required to utilize additional PPE such as gowns, gloves, and/or face shields.
Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new admissions are screened for COVID-19 signs/symptoms (include a temperature check). NOTE: <i>Facilities request COVID-19 testing prior to admission but <u>require</u> via the jail and juvenile justice systems for admission into the state mental health institutes or the state training school, respectively.</i> • All new admissions must quarantine for a minimum of fourteen (14) days before further movement within the facility. Essential services are provided within the quarantine area as required.
Visitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person visitation is permitted in external or isolated areas. • Visitors must be screened (including a temperature check) for COVID-19.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors must wash or disinfect hands prior to visitation. • Visitors must wear a general/procedural mask for the duration of the visit. • Contact during visit is permitted but limited to a brief action (e.g., hug). • Visitation areas will be cleaned/disinfected between visits. • The number of visitors will be limited based on space, staffing, environment, and IDPH and CDC guidelines (e.g., social distancing). • Facilities will continue the use of video/telephonic visitation as an alternative to in-person visitation.
Medical Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telemedicine is utilized whenever possible. • Elective and non-elective procedures are permitted. • Staff and patients must utilize appropriate PPE (at least using a cloth or general/procedural mask) for the duration of any medically necessary appointments/transport. • Quarantining to occur when appropriate.
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-campus employment opportunities that involve contact with external products/partners are permitted with appropriate PPE, social distancing, screening, etc. • Non-essential outings and external employment opportunities will be allowed provided appropriate PPE (e.g., general/procedural mask) is utilized throughout the duration and screening (including a temperature check) occurs prior to facility re-entry. <i>NOTE: For facilities that utilize Temporary Home Visits as part of the reintegration process, said visits <u>may</u> be authorized by the Director with the expectation that the individual adhere to social distancing guidelines, appropriate use of face coverings, etc., throughout the visit. Upon return to the facility, the individual would be screened per facility protocol.</i> • Facilities attempt to minimize the number of participants in any singular space to include recreation, treatment, and dining. • Use of technology to deliver essential services is encouraged. This include education, telemedicine, etc.
COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities continue to progressively test all residents on an initial basis. • Continued testing protocols related to frequency and need are being developed for implementation beyond the current pandemic state.
COVID-19 Exposure / Positive Test Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities follow IDPH and CDC guidelines regarding care and treatment to individuals who are or test positive.

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- Quarantine, cohorting, use of PPE, and leave (for employees) are options available to prevent and mitigate further transmission.
 - **If a pattern [two (2) or more] individuals served or staff are confirmed positive for COVID-19 with a reasonable belief transmission occurred at the facility, the facility will return to Phase 1.**

Appendix A – Facility-Specific Strategies

Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO)

1. Visits would occur outside the facility in the shelter area of the CCUSO yard.
 - Visits would be subject to cancellation if unsafe weather conditions occurred (e.g. lightning, thunderstorm, extreme heat).
2. Visiting hours would be changed to 5:30pm-8:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as, from 11am-1:30pm, and 4:00pm to 6:00pm on weekends/holidays. **NOTE:** *This is to allow both yard access and visitation access.*
 - CCUSO yard activities would be shifted to the East yard on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
3. There will be a limit to the number of visitors allowed at any one time so as to promote social distancing. **NOTE:** *CCUSO will consider using plexi-glass barriers and non-soluble table tops to promote proper disinfecting between visits.*
4. Visitors would be instructed to leave belongings in vehicles versus utilization of facility lockers.
5. CCUSO will utilize hand-held metal detectors for security screenings to be conducted outside the sally port.

Cherokee Mental Health Institute (CMHI)

1. Attempts will be made to have visits occur outdoors (depending on weather and patient precautionary status) or in the family visitation area (depending on patient precautionary status) otherwise visitation will occur in the ward interview room.
2. One (1) visit at a time in the designated location.
3. Visitation hours will be limited to 4pm-7pm, Monday-Friday & 12pm-6pm, weekends/holidays. **NOTE:** *Special arrangements can be made in advance through the Social Worker for those unable to visit during designated times.*
4. All visits will be limited to one (1) hour unless otherwise indicated.
5. No visitors under the age of eighteen (18).
6. Will continue to restrict visitors on North 7, the designated ward for ill patients. Patients on this ward will continue to have the Skype option available to them.

Independence Mental Health Institute (IMHI)

Phase 2

1. Visits by 2 persons, by appointment only, in a central room off the unit.
 - Two adult visitors, or an adult with a child age 14 or older, will be allowed.
 - Both visitors will be limited to **one hour** of face-to-face visitation.
 - Visit supervised by staff to ensure patient safety is safeguarded.

Phase 3

1. Visits by 2 persons, by appointment only, in a designated area on each unit.
 - Two adult visitors, or an adult with a child age 14 or older, will be allowed.

- Both visitors will be limited to **one hour** of face-to-face visitation.
- Visit supervised by staff to ensure patient safety is safeguarded.

Boys State Training School (BSTS)

1. Location will be the Canteen. This is the building that is normally used for family visits.
2. Hours will be 9am to 3pm on Saturday and Sunday.
3. We will have 3 time periods for visits: 9am-11am, 11am-1pm, and 1pm-3pm. Visitors will need to sign up in advance by calling BSTS and reserving a timeslot.
4. Four students per slot with max of 2 visitors per student and no one under the age of 16.

Glenwood Resource Center (GRC)

Phase 2

1. Outdoor visitation (weather permitting) at Campbell Park or other isolated areas (e.g., House 254, Meyer Building, Chapel) will be allowed.
2. Transportation of resident will involve a designated van.
 - Van will be disinfected by staff prior to use and after use.
3. If social distancing is not followed, the Superintendent will review circumstances/report from witnesses for housing resident in normal home or COVID-19 observation home.

Phase 3

1. Visitation/meetings at off-campus locations allowed.

Woodward Resource Center (WRC)

Phase 2

1. 200 Franklin Living Room Area or outdoor space (weather permitting) may be used for visitation.
2. All visitation will be pre-scheduled through the house social worker.
3. Any issues or concerns with the above guidelines being followed will be reported to the Superintendent for review.

Phase 3

1. Additional locations (e.g., Campus Center, Shelter House) will be utilized for additional visitation options. Off-campus locations can be considered.
2. All visitation will be pre-scheduled through the house social worker.
3. Any issues or concerns with the above guidelines being followed will be reported to the Superintendent for review.