



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Chad Poppell
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 17, 2020

TO: Family Members

FROM: Rodney Moore, Assistant Secretary
Substance Abuse and Mental Health

SUBJECT: Visitation at State Mental Health Treatment Facilities

In response to the Governor's State of Public Health Emergency Declaration 20-51 due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Governor's Executive Order 20-52, and the Division of Emergency Management Order 20-006, visitation to the state mental health treatment facilities has been restricted effective immediately until April 15th. The Division of Emergency Management Order provides exceptions to this visitation ban, including:

- Family members, friends, and visiting residents in end-of-life situations
- Hospice or palliative care workers caring for residents in end-of-life situations
- Any individuals providing necessary health care to a resident
- Facility staff
- Facility residents
- Attorneys of Record for a resident in an Adult Mental Health and Treatment Facility for court related matters if virtual or telephonic means are unavailable
- Representatives of the federal or state governments seeking entry as part of their official duties, including but not limited to, long-term care ombudsman program, representatives of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the Department of Elder Affairs, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, a protection and advocacy organization, the Office of Attorney General any law enforcement officer, and any emergency medical personnel.

The reason visitation has been restricted is to decrease the risk of exposure to COVID-19 virus, and to decrease the inadvertent spread of COVID-19 virus to residents and employees in these facilities. Although no confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been identified in these facilities statewide at this time, new cases are being identified in Florida. Please be assured that we are taking aggressive and affirmative steps to ensure the health of the residents at our facilities. All facilities have implemented protocols recommended by the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent the spread of the virus. These protocols are in addition to the already routine practices of using universal precautions on a daily basis with all residents. Limiting exposure to others, social distancing, has been proven effective in managing the spread of this virus as we have learned from other countries who have had similar experiences, such as China and Italy.

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

We encourage family members to utilize the phone, videoconferencing, or mail to maintain contact with their loved ones. Please contact your facility Hospital Administrator or your family member's social worker if you meet one of the exemptions provided above and would like to visit the facility.

Facility	Mailing Address	Main Telephone Number	Hospital Administrator
Florida Civil Commitment Center	13619 SE Highway 70 Arcadia, FL 34266	(863) 491-4800	Don Sawyer
Florida State Hospital	P.O. Box 1000 Chattahoochee, FL 32324	(850) 663-7001	Susan Trueblood
Northeast Florida State Hospital	7487 South State Road 121 Macclenny, FL 32063	(904) 259-6211	Linda Williams
North Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center	1200 NE 55th Boulevard Gainesville, FL 32641-2759	(352) 375-8484	Bob Gibson
South Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center	18680 SW 376th Street Florida City, FL 33034	(786) 349-6001	Frank Schwartz
South Florida State Hospital	800 East Cypress Drive Pembroke Pines, FL 33025	(954) 392-3000	Lee Packer
Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center	96 SW Allapattah Road Indiantown, FL 34956	(772) 597-9406	Roland Peltier
West Florida Community Care Center	5500 Stewart Street NE Milton, FL 32570	(850) 983-5500	Meredith Olsen

Please continue to use personal prevention techniques like increased hand washing, hand sanitizers, isolation at home if sick, and other methods to slow the spread of the virus in the community, as recommended by the CDC and Florida Department of Health websites.

Please see CDC website for more information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>