

**SUD Medical Directors COVID-19 WebEx**  
**Thursday, May 28, 2020 | 1-2pm**  
**Executive Summary**

Dr. Nicole Esposito, County Behavioral Health Services Department (BHS) Assistant Clinical Director, convenes DMC-ODS Medical Directors (MDs) on a bi-weekly basis via WebEx to provide updates regarding the County's COVID-19 response efforts as well as to dialog on issues faced by MDs during the COVID-19 emergency. The group reconvened on Thursday, May 28th at 1pm.

County BHS shared the current COVID-19 numbers that are accessible via the [County of San Diego's ArcGIS COVID-19 Dashboard](#). County BHS also shared BHS data during COVID-19, showing a dramatic reduction in services at the beginning of COVID-19, and a subsequent start and surge in service delivery via telemedicine during the pandemic.



The MDs dialogued on a variety of topics, including individual sessions as well as in-person with virtual groups. Lack of telehealth equipment was cited as a barrier for facilities' capability to hold groups via video conference. County BHS reiterated that small groups with adequate spacing and masking are still allowed. On the suggestion to utilize outdoor space to maximize spacing, the County reminded the group to be mindful of confidentiality when doing so.

County BHS shared an update on potential on-site testing at residential programs and its proposed process where County testing team and Public Health lab staff will be working directly with Programs and MDs for testing. County BHS encouraged the group to continue navigating partnerships with FQHCs for testing.

County BHS also facilitated a discussion on opportunities and risks of keeping COVID-positive residential clients enrolled in their programs while isolated in a separate temporary lodging. MDs agreed that if provided as an option, they would explore and consider it on a case by case basis. County BHS shared regulatory confirmation from DHCS that SUD residential providers may continue telephone/telehealth treatment to a COVID positive client isolating at a hotel with medical director agreement.