

**SUD Medical Directors COVID-19 WebEx**  
**Thursday, August 6, 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, August 6th at 1pm.

County BHS shared updates and information on: 1) County BHS-funded SUD residential bed capacity reduction and room for new intakes; 2) additional withdrawal management beds; 3) recent CDC data that show increase in overdose deaths, harm reduction & recovery practices; 4) optimizing CARES Act funds; 4) in-custody COVID-19 testing has not changed: patients can request a test at any time.

MDs shared and dialogued on a variety of topics, including programmatic barriers to care and capacity due to COVID-19 such as temporary admission closures due to positive cases; care transitions between agencies and/or levels of care; medication chain of custody & storage ([DHCS guidelines \(question #9\)](#)); symptoms improvement, testing and return-to-work policies & procedures for program staff; and flu season preparedness.

County Public Health Services Medical Consultant Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan shared that overall COVID-19 case rates are decreasing, as well as provided the following updates: 1) a [revised Public Health Officer isolation order](#) based on [updated CDC isolation guidance for persons with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised](#); 2) an addition to Public Health Order [mandating employers to report COVID-19 positive cases to County Public Health Services \(section 16c\)](#); and 3) the new Healthy Compliance Call Center (858-694-2900) for reporting health order violations.

Current COVID-19 numbers can be accessed anytime via the [County of San Diego's ArcGIS COVID-19 Dashboard](#).