



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

CONTACT: Meghan McGuire

804-241-6876

Meghan.mcguire@dbhds.virginia.gov

**DBHDS RESTRICTS VISITATION POLICIES FOR STATE-RUN MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITALS
AND CENTERS DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

RICHMOND, VA – The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) announced changes in the visitation and screening policies at all 13 DBHDS facilities across Virginia. The visitation policies are vital to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to DBHDS patients and staff, and to maintain the critical services provided by DBHDS facilities. These visitation policies are immediately in effect.

The visitation policies apply to anyone who is not currently admitted to the facility or not directly employed by the facility. This includes, but is not limited to family members, friends, authorized representatives, guardians, legal representatives, members of the general public, regulatory agencies, and site inspectors.

Most DBHDS facilities have “restricted” visitation policies in place. Restricted visitation means that visitors will not be allowed in the facility at all, except for contractors and vendors who are mission critical to the operations of the facility and lawyers representing a client currently admitted to the facility. If there are questions about a particular location, that facility should be contacted directly. The facilities with restricted visitation include:

Facility	Location	Description
Catawba Hospital	Catawba	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Central State Hospital	Petersburg	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Central Virginia Training Center	Lynchburg	Center for People with Intellectual Disability
Eastern State Hospital	Williamsburg	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Hiram Davis Medical Center	Petersburg	Medical Center for DBHDS Patients
Southeastern Virginia Training Center	Chesapeake	Center for People with Intellectual Disability
Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute	Falls Church	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Piedmont Geriatric Hospital	Burkeville	Geriatric Mental Health Hospital
Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute	Danville	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute	Marion	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Virginia Center for Behavioral Rehabilitation	Burkeville	Rehabilitation of Sexually Violent Predators
Western State Hospital	Staunton	Adult Mental Health Hospital

However, the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA), has “limited” visitation. Limited visitation means that visitors are not allowed to enter the facility except for certain situations, or in the case of a minor child, the visitor is a parent or approved guardian. CCCA, located in Staunton, is a mental health hospital for children under age 18.

For all DBHDS facilities, no more than two visitors will be allowed at a time. All visitors will be screened and must be negative for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 to be permitted to enter. It is recommended that visitors call the facility on the day of the visit before coming to the hospital to be screened for symptoms.

DBHDS is committed to taking proactive steps to keep individuals admitted to state facilities and staff as safe as possible. New visitation policies will limit virus exposure to patients, many of whom are immunocompromised or medically fragile. They also protect staff from contracting the virus, especially during a time of extremely high state hospital census numbers when absences are already very challenging.

Visitation policies are subject to change based on guidance and information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Infection and the Virginia Department of Health. Policies will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) seeks to promote dignity, choice, recovery, and the highest possible level of participation in work, relationships, and all aspects of community life for individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities or substance-use disorders. DBHDS operates 13 state facilities and partners with 40 locally-run community services boards and hundreds of private providers statewide. For more information, please visit www.dbhds.virginia.gov, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#).