



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DBHDS RESTRICTS VISITATION FOR STATE-RUN MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITALS AND CENTERS DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK STARTING SEPTEMBER 3**

**RICHMOND, VA** – The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) announced changes in the visitation policies at all 12 DBHDS facilities across Virginia in light of high community transmission of COVID-19, with a case positivity rate of 10.1% as of August 30, 2021. As of Friday, September 3, 2021, all 12 DBHDS facilities will move to a restricted visitation policy.

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.

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. However, the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents (CCCA), will not allow visitors to enter the facility except for certain situations, or in the case of a minor child, the visitor is a parent or approved guardian. If there are questions about a particular location, that facility should be contacted directly. The facilities and their locations are as follows:

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
Catawba Hospital	Catawba	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Central State Hospital	Petersburg	Adult Mental Health Hospital
Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents	Staunton	Children’s Mental Health Hospital
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

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. Importantly, visitation policies do not affect admissions. All state hospitals are currently open to forensic admissions and only Central State,

Eastern State and Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute are closed to civil TDO admissions.

At the onset of the pandemic, DBHDS restricted admissions to the facilities on March 14, 2020. Visitation restrictions remained in place until April 15, 2021, when the facilities re-opened to limited visitation with infection control measures and precautions in place.

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 and critically low staffing levels throughout the state facility system.

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.

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*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 12 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](http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).*