



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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**MARYLOU SUDDERS**  
Secretary

**MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH**  
Commissioner

To: Public Health and Mental Health Hospitals System  
From: Monica Bharel, MD, MPH, Commissioner, Department of Public Health  
Joan Mikula, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health  
Date: June 9, 2020  
Re: Access and Visitation Policy for Department of Mental Health Hospitals and the  
Department of Public Health Public Health Hospital System

**PURPOSE**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Mental Health (DMH) continue to work with state, federal and local partners on the outbreak of novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2.

Pursuant to a Memorandum issued by the Department of Public Health Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality issued on June 6, 2020, all DPH and DMH hospitals are directed to implement the attached Access and Visitation Policy, effective June 10, 2020, to protect the health and safety of patients and staff during the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

This memorandum supersedes and replaces the Amended Visitor Access Implementation Protocols and Procedures for DMH and DPH Hospitals During COVID-19 issued on March 19, 2020 and will remain in effect unless rescinded or otherwise modified by us.

Attachment: Access and Visitation Policy for Department of Mental Health Hospitals and the Department of Public Health Public Health Hospital System, Effective June 10, 2020