



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Mental Health
25 Staniford Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2575

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Lieutenant Governor

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JOAN MIKULA
Commissioner

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Mental Health is issuing an emergency regulation pursuant to M.G.L. c. 19, s. 19. The emergency regulation is an amendment to 104 CMR 27.13, pertaining to routine facility search procedures. In response to increased incidents of the introduction of dangerous substances, including illegal opioids, into locked psychiatric facilities, DMH is enhancing its facility search protocols and may include the use of passive canine drug detection. Due to the urgent nature of the issue, an emergency regulation is required. This regulation also notifies licensed facilities that they may also establish such search policies, if the need is indicated.

A public hearing will be held for the purpose of receiving written and oral testimony on this emergency regulation.

TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

September 12, 2019 at 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Department of Mental Health
Boston Room
25 Staniford Street
Boston, MA 02114

METHOD OF COMMENT: Written comments may be mailed to the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Mental Health, 25 Staniford Street, Boston, MA 02114; or submitted to e-mail address: DMH-regulations@state.ma.us **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**. Written and email comments should contain sender's name, address and organization/affiliation. The Comment Period ends at 5:00 P.M. on September 12, 2019.

ACCOMMODATION: If you plan to attend the public hearing and wish to request the accommodation of a sign language or other interpreter, contact DMH Legal at least 14 days in advance of the hearing date at (617) 626-8236.

INFORMATION: Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained from the Department of Mental Health Legal Office, 25 Staniford Street, Boston, MA 02114, and may also be found on the Department's Internet site at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/laws-regs/dmh>.

By Order of the Department of Mental Health
Joan Mikula, Commissioner
July 25, 2019