COVID-19 Webinar for Behavioral Health Care

Q&A With The Joint Commission

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Pre-Submitted Questions

What infection prevention techniques should we be following when using CPAP?

• When caring for COVID(+) patients on an inpatient mental health unit?

• On any patients on an inpatient mental health unit?

Table B.1. Air changes/hour (ACH) and time required for airborne-contaminant removal by efficiency *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACH (min.)</th>
<th>Time (mins.) required for removal 99% efficiency</th>
<th>Time (mins.) required for removal 99.9% efficiency</th>
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Source:
https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/appendix/air.html#tableb1
Pre-Submitted Questions

We are considering re-opening our residential substance abuse unit and would like more information on the precautions we should take...Where can we find guidelines for residential settings?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How can I keep my clients safe as they return to treatment in person/on site?

• Are masks a requirement
• Do we need to take temperatures?
• What do I do if I suspect the person has COVID-19?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the Joint Commission’s recommendations for routine operations as some state and/or county health officials relax restrictions?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We have situations where we do not want to leave a plastic bag in patient room, hallway, or isolation cart because of risk to other behavioral health patients.

Can you provide suggestions for placing or using a biohazard bag if a patient is in isolation?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We currently are not using our group therapy rooms due to room size and the need to constantly disinfect and are struggling with how to protect patients and staff during group therapy. Is there any guidance on infection prevention for COVID-19 and the use of designated group therapy space?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What safety measures would be expected in a group therapy setting?

If we are wearing masks is social distancing still expected?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How thorough should our COVID-19 plans be for behavioral health?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Is monitoring hand washing required in a BH facility that is not a 24 hour facility?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can you provide resources for when employees can return to work after exposure or COVID-19 infection?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What should we do if we are notified that a patient who was not symptomatic is positive for COVID-19 after discharge?

- Do we monitor all current patients in house?
- Do we need to notify other discharged patients?
- Do we test only patients who have symptoms?
- What about our staff?
Pre-Submitted Questions

For behavioral hospitals, when treating asymptomatic pediatric and adolescent patients what type(s) of mask and PPE does direct care and support staff need to wear?

What type of masks should patients wear?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How do we handle non-compliance with PPE use?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We require all staff and patients to wear a cloth mask at all times but during a therapeutic restraint, should we require staff to switch to a different type of mask for protection or would the cloth mask be okay?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the best practices that you are seeing with COVID-19 testing prior to an inpatient/residential Behavioral Health admission?

Should every patient be tested for COVID-19 prior to admission?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the guidelines for retesting for COVID-19 if the result was negative?

How long is test results good for?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When an organization chooses to perform testing upon admission, and a BH patient refuses testing, what steps should be taken to avoid patient and staff exposure?

What if a symptomatic or asymptomatic patient is not compliant with masking or staying in their room?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How will hospitals’ (specifically psychiatric hospitals’) Ligature Risk Extension project completion re-surveys be prioritized when survey activities are reinstated?
Regarding Life Safety compliance, what if we are unable to get vendors to do our life safety inspections?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Our ligature safety construction project, which was a part of our correction plan from the last survey, is on hold due to the coronavirus. Will the next survey be postponed until after we complete the project?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are the requirements regarding wall fixtures, like picture frames in patient care areas?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Reviewing the risk assessment pertaining to corridors, what are the recommendations for life safety items such as smoke detectors, pull stations, strobes, sprinkler heads, fire door hardware and hold open magnets?
What Behavioral Health standards should we be especially aware of as we deliver our services via telehealth?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Any guidance for providing group therapy via telehealth?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are The Joint Commission requirements for the number of evidence-based groups/day on inpatient psychiatry (pre-COVID-19). I am planning for the new normal. We were informed TJC may require 4 groups/days pre-COVID-19..., which seemed high to me.
Pre-Submitted Questions

Our state Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA) has waived regulations regarding tox screens, more expansive take-home medications. Will The Joint Commission be citing us on the records that are non-compliant?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Does The Joint Commission have specific requirements or guidelines around restraint and seclusion of patients who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19? Does this need to be documented in our infection control policy?
Pre-Submitted Questions

What are some of the recommendations for the clients at the opioid treatment programs during the pandemic?

Reference: https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus
As a small entity (16 beds) many of our resources must be devoted to even a single possible client being admitted who may be COVID-19 positive. Any advice on how to be safe but still efficient in our residential program?

Pre-Submitted Questions

Will the new substance use disorder standards also apply to our reoccurring population such as our individuals in partial hospital where their mental illness is primary and substance use disorder secondary?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will the TJC surveyor bring their own PPE when doing a survey, or should we plan to provide that?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When will TJC start surveys in behavioral settings?
Pre-Submitted Questions

How will surveys change in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?
Pre-Submitted Questions

We are still in the yellow phase with restrictions in place; as fresh blackout dates will not be given, how do we plan for the survey to make sure key stakeholders are on-site the day of survey? We have a 3-day survey, will this change?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Can someone describe the shape and form of a virtual opioid treatment programs survey?
Pre-Submitted Questions

When should we expect a visit from The Joint Commission, if our accreditation expires in October 2020?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will surveys be delayed due to COVID-19?
Pre-Submitted Questions

Will The Joint Commission have its own screening process for surveyors in addition to us screening them at the door?
Thank You

We support your efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hope to provide helpful resources.
Resources

- COVID Resources
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/

- Standards Interpretation
  - https://www.jointcommission.org/standards/standard-faqs/