Dear Partners and Providers,

I am writing to notify you about several changes in admissions at DBHDS state hospitals and facilities as Virginia fights escalating COVID-19 cases across the Commonwealth:

- **Central State Hospital (CSH)** – Following a recommendation from the VDH local health department, there is a temporary hold in civil admissions at CSH. There are currently 11 patients and 25 staff who have tested positive. It is possible that admissions will reopen early next week, contingent on VDH approval. Admissions from jails that are appropriate for CSH’s maximum security unit are in a separate building and are not affected by the temporary admissions hold.

- **Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH)** – PGH in Burkeville currently has four positive staff members and 12 positive patients. The hospital has been closed to admissions following VDH recommendations. At this time, PGH has been able to successfully divert to other available geriatric beds in the state hospital system.

- **Hiram Davis Medical Center (HDMC)** – VDH recommended closing admissions to HDMC following positive test results from 13 patients and 12 staff members. HDMC admissions are typically entirely comprised of patients from other DBHDS facilities. This center shares a campus with CSH.

- **Catawba Hospital** – While positive cases continue to trend downward, Catawba remains closed to admissions until further notice.

- **Additional DBHDS Facilities** – All other DBHDS facilities have positive cases among staff, patients, or both. However, these facilities have been able to manage without closing admissions at this time, and are able to accept diverted admissions from closed DBHDS facilities.

All DBHDS facilities are isolating any positive patient cases and further cohorting patients and staff to limit the opportunity for further spread of the virus. Any staff members known to be positive are isolating away from the facilities and receiving treatment as needed. For each facility with closed admissions, DBHDS is working with the local health department on a safe plan to reopen as soon as it is safe to do so.

Since March, all DBHDS facilities have been aggressively fighting COVID-19. Visitation at all DBHDS facilities has been restricted since March, all staff and patients are screened daily for symptoms, expanded infection control measures are firmly in place, and positive and potentially positive cases are immediately quarantined. I am deeply grateful for the persistence and skill of DBHDS staff across Virginia who continue to work hard to keep patients and staff safe.

The statewide state hospital census currently stands at 97.2 percent at this time, which fortunately allows DBHDS to quickly divert admissions to open beds within the state hospital system. Because the COVID-19 situation that the state hospitals are dealing with is extremely fluid, we ask that partners continue to divert to alternatives whenever possible over the long New Year’s holiday weekend. I am
very grateful for your efforts and partnership that helped us manage the extended Christmas holiday weekend. We will continue to work in partnership with VDH, Virginia's CSBs, VHHA, law enforcement, community providers and other critical stakeholders as we implement strategies to prevent further COVID-19 exposures and safely divert admissions.

Sincerely,

Alison

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