

From: Alison Land <alison.land@dbhds.virginia.gov>

Date: July 9, 2020 at 2:35:28 PM EDT

Subject: Notification about Admissions at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital

Dear Partners and Providers,

DBHDS continues to work in partnership with state mental health hospital directors and VDH to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff throughout DBHDS facilities have worked extremely hard preventing the spread of the virus; as of yesterday, there were 22 cases and no deaths among the 5,500 staff and 1,850 patients across the 12 facilities. With the increase in state hospital census, it has become increasingly difficult to maintain bed availability while addressing the infection control, staffing concerns, and isolation protocols necessary to prevent an outbreak within our congregate settings.

As of today, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital (PGH), in Burkeville, Virginia, has received notification that three patients and two staff tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, PGH is currently utilizing 104 percent of its bed capacity. In accordance with guidance from VDH, the affected patient unit has been placed on quarantine, curtailing admissions and discharges (to that unit) for a period of time pending COVID-19 testing results and ongoing consultation with VDH. Admissions to the remaining units will not be denied but will be delayed until beds become available to accommodate additional patients. PGH's 104 percent capacity includes all overflow and admission unit beds being currently occupied.

We will continue to work in partnership with CSBs, VHHA, law enforcement, community providers and other critical stakeholders as we implement strategies to prevent further exposures and continue community integration efforts, as appropriate. Admissions will resume as discharges occur on the unaffected PGH Units. We will make every effort to divert admissions to other state hospitals as capacity becomes available. State hospitals are currently utilizing 111.1 percent geriatric bed capacity at this time.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership.

Sincerely,
Alison

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