



Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

5600 Fishers Lane • Rockville, MD 20857

www.samhsa.gov • 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727)



May 7, 2020

Dear Treatment Provider:

Thank you for the work you and your organization continue to do on behalf of millions of Americans living with mental and/or substance use disorders. During this time, it is critical that these individuals continue to get the care and treatment they need.

A significant portion of this care will be provided in face-to-face settings. This care will often require physical contact and examination of patients performed by health care professionals. This letter is to certify agreement by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, that the services provided in mental and substance use disorder treatment programs across the country are essential medical services.

Because of the nature of these services, many professionals providing them may require the use of personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves. This letter serves as confirmation from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that the ordering of such supplies by providers of mental and substance use disorder treatment services is for a legitimate need and purpose.

Thank you again for your continued work for this population.

Sincerely,

Elinore F. McCance-Katz, M.D., Ph.D.  
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health  
and Substance Use