



Program Closure Reminder for Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) Providers

December 1, 2020

During this COVID-19 pandemic and the periodic surges in COVID-19 cases and positivity rates among behavioral health providers and patients, temporary opioid treatment program (OTP) emergency closures may become necessary due to a lack of staff, testing and quarantining of staff, or the need for extensive cleaning. Please be in close contact with your local health department for guidance. If an OTP closure is being considered please immediately contact the State Opioid Treatment Authority at frank.dyson@maryland.gov or by calling 410-440-7163.

Please be aware that closure of a program without prior notice to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), and the Local Behavioral Health Authority, is a violation of COMAR 10.63.06.07, as well as a violation of the Agreement to Cooperate required by COMAR 10.63.01.05, and could result in monetary penalties and/or loss of state licensure.

Continuity of medication must be maintained during emergency closures. OTPs must have emergency closing procedures in place, including MOUs with other OTPs for guest dosing, an emergency contact that can provide dose verification, and a means to immediately notify all patients of closures, to ensure that all patients are able to receive medication. BHA will be reviewing Emergency Plans and COVID-19 Response Plans during compliance team reviews. In addition, especially during this period, we ask that all OTPs be available to guest dose individuals whose OTP has had an emergency temporary closure.

Thank you for your commitment to providing access to safe and effective care for Maryland's citizens with behavioral health conditions throughout the course of this pandemic.