



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES  
PO BOX 362  
5 COMMERCE WAY  
HAMILTON, NJ 08691

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

CAROLE JOHNSON  
*Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

VALERIE L. MIELKE, MSW  
*Assistant Commissioner*

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Contracted Agencies Funded by SAMHSA Grants

**FROM:** Valerie L. Mielke, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services *VM*

**DATE:** May 11, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment

Attached is a letter from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that certifies its agreement that the services provided in mental and substance use disorder treatment programs across the country are essential medical services. The letter also serves as confirmation from SAMHSA that the ordering of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and gloves by providers of mental and substance use disorder treatment services is for a legitimate need and purpose. You may use this letter as a resource when purchasing PPE supplies.

Please visit SAMHSA's Coronavirus (COVID-19) website at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus> for guidance regarding the use of SAMHSA grant funds to purchase PPE for authorized grant personnel working in service of the grant.

Thank you for your continued provision of high quality behavioral health services.

#### Attachment

c: Renee Burawski  
Morris Friedman  
Suzanne Borys  
Donna Migliorino  
James Rooney  
Hetal Bhatt



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