



**INFORMATION RELATED TO ADMISSION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

New Directions for Women is committed to continue serving individuals, families, and communities affected by addiction while simultaneously responding to the threat of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

COVID-19 is contagious and spreading. It has now been reported in all 50 states. Though exposure is a risk to everyone everywhere, New Directions for Women has taken robust steps to minimize and manage those risks at our facilities.

**How has New Directions for Women prepared its facilities?**

To the fullest extent possible, we are following the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our state health departments. We have a team of individuals working on adjusting the response as new information becomes available.

Due to the nature of our work, health care facilities cannot fully implement “social distancing” and other isolation precautions advised by CDC for the general public. We have, however, taken many practical measures. For example, we have suspended visitation to the facilities, and many administrative staff are working at home to reduce the amount of people coming and going from the campuses. We also are minimizing large group gatherings as much as possible; encouraging physical spacing and frequent, proper handwashing; identifying symptoms of illness early; and cleaning and disinfecting regularly.

For more information about the response at our facilities, please see our website at [NewDirectionsforWomen.org](http://NewDirectionsforWomen.org)

**What can I expect if I decide to admit to New Directions for Women?**

1. New Directions for Women will treat your substance use and/or mental health condition but will not be able to address COVID-19 treatment.
2. New Directions for Women does not currently have access to COVID-19 testing. If you have symptoms, you will be discharged from our facility and provided with information on where to receive treatment. Hospitals, urgent care, and others will have their own criteria for who will receive COVID-19 tests.
3. In order to protect you and all others in the facility, staff will assess patients for symptoms, including taking periodic (at least daily) temperatures. If you develop a fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms that concern staff, you will immediately be quarantined with potential discharge plan which will include information on where to receive treatment.
4. Lack of symptoms of COVID-19 at admission does not mean that you, or others who will be around you during your stay, have not already been exposed to the virus.
5. Exposure to COVID-19 can lead to serious illness or death. According to the CDC, if you have any of the following underlying medical conditions, you may be at greater risk of serious COVID-19 complications at any age.

- Blood disorders (e.g., sickle cell disease or on blood thinners)
  - Chronic kidney disease as defined by your doctor. Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because of kidney disease, or is under treatment for kidney disease, including receiving dialysis
  - Chronic liver disease as defined by your doctor. (e.g., cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis) Patient has been told to avoid or reduce the dose of medications because of liver disease or is under treatment for liver disease.
  - Compromised immune system (immunosuppression) (e.g., seeing a doctor for cancer and treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation, received an organ or bone marrow transplant, taking high doses of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressant medications, HIV or AIDS)
  - Endocrine disorders (e.g., diabetes mellitus)
  - Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
  - Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
  - Lung disease including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (chronic bronchitis or emphysema) or other chronic conditions associated with impaired lung function or that require home oxygen
  - Neurological and neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury.
- **It is important to remember that a substance use disorder is also a dangerous health condition, and we are committed to continuing to provide help to those in need during these unprecedented circumstances.**