



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

SESSION 1 – COVID-19 & ACEs

Question: Have there been studies comparing the efficacy of psychotherapy with therapists who have specific training around trauma-informed practices vs. not?

Please reference this resource for information about trauma and promising trauma-informed practices: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK207192/>

SESSION 2 – COVID-19 & SEXUAL HEALTH

Question: Are all STD testing included in ACA approved health plans?

Preventive STI testing and treatment is considered part of the essential covered services that are covered by marketplace and MediCal plans. See:

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchstp/preventionthroughhealthcare/preventiveservices/std.htm>

Question: Patient with Aetna Insurance diagnosed with syphilis but they refused to pay for treatment. Any suggestions other than to go to 17th St. Clinic?

It's certainly not uncommon for insurers like AETNA to deny coverage for the Bicillin-LA injections. Treatment consists of 1 dose per week for 3 weeks. The best and fastest way to get treatment is to go to 17th Street Clinic where there is no cost for treatment. If individuals come to Radiant Health Centers for STI testing and the Syphilis test is positive, they are treated at the 17th Street Clinic.

If the patient does not want to use their insurance for confidentiality reasons, they could qualify for the state-funded FPACT program which they can get at a Planned Parenthood site; this would cover their treatment. If they do not qualify for the program and do not wish to use their insurance, Planned Parenthood would put them on the sliding fee scale based on their income.

SESSION 4 – COVID-19 & MENTAL HEALTH

Question: Suicide risk for veterans is a major concern. Are there strategies that should be customized for this group of at risk residents?

Isolation during COVID-19 can put veterans at higher risk of mental illness or suicide. Female veterans facing violence at home are also at risk. In Orange County, we don't segregate mental health services for veterans, but veterans can get specialized services at the VA Hospital in



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Long Beach. The Long Beach VA Website has a lot of info about COVID-19, including FAQ for mental health: <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus-veteran-frequently-asked-questions/>

Here is a link to a collaborative of organizations in Orange County that is focused on serving military and veteran families: <https://ocstrongfamilies.org/>

Question: Have you encountered issues with increased stress/anxiety after people have been contacted by contact tracers and informed that they may have been exposed to COVID? Wondering if contact tracers are integrating mental health referrals into their work?

Yes, the OC Health Care Agency's Contact Tracing team includes 3-4 social workers to help address mental health/stress associated with being notified by contact tracer about exposure to COVID-19, and to help people find housing where they can self-isolate/quarantine.

Right now, the highest number of COVID-19 cases in OC are in Latinx communities in Santa Ana and Anaheim, so HCA just launched a Latino Health Equity Initiative. We contracted with Latino Health Access and will work with a coalition of community clinics, school districts, cities, UC Irvine, and other community-based organizations to utilize the *promotora* model to provide outreach, education, referrals and mobile testing in the community.