

SUD Medical Directors COVID-19 WebEx
Thursday, October 29, 2020 | 1-2pm
Executive Summary

Dr. Nicole Esposito, County Behavioral Health Services Department (BHS) Assistant Clinical Director, convenes DMC-ODS Medical Directors (MDs) on a bi-weekly basis via WebEx to provide updates regarding the County's COVID-19 response efforts as well as to dialog on issues faced by MDs during the COVID-19 emergency. The group reconvened on Thursday, October 29th at 1pm.

County BHS provided an [update on the Behavioral Health Continuum of Care and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System](#) to the Board of Supervisors on October 27, 2020. Highlights included data-supported success of OTP response to the pandemic and a 90% increase in buprenorphine encounters from FY 18-19 to FY 19-20.

The County's BHS QM Team provided clarification regarding the regulatory updates for fentanyl, oxycodone, Hep C, and HIV testing requirements, as well as the blanket exception letter, for OTPs.

County Public Health Services Medical Consultant Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan shared the latest COVID-19 update on the recently approved Abbott BinaxNOW rapid antigen COVID test and its process for local requests from health facilities. Facilities interested in using BinaxNOW must have a valid CLIA certificate. For more information on the antigen test and how to request kits, please see attached PowerPoint.

Current COVID-19 numbers can be accessed anytime via the [County of San Diego's ArcGIS COVID-19 Dashboard](#).