



COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance Document

Guidance on Admittance, Discharge of Psychiatric Patients During COVID-19

The findings, opinions, and conclusions of this guidance document do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, trustees, or all members of the American Psychiatric Association.

APA provides the following guidance for psychiatric care during outbreaks of communicable disease:

1. Premature discharge of patients from psychiatric hospitals and inpatient psychiatric units is unreasonable as this practice exposes patients, families, and the community at large to the risks of harmful and adverse outcomes irrespective of communicable disease outbreaks.
2. During communicable disease outbreaks, referral of patients to any psychiatric setting should balance efforts to match patients' mental health needs with the appropriate level of care while considering the potential risks of the communicable disease at each level of care.
3. Each level of psychiatric care during such outbreaks should provide safe and appropriate treatment, including adequate protection from the risk of infection from the communicable disease.