

Treatment Courts and COVID-19: What to Consider During a Pandemic

Drug Testing

CONSIDERATIONS

- › Degree of exposure risk
- › Minimum testing necessary to maintain efficacy
- › Response to missed appointments due to illness, quarantine, shelter-in-place, or fear

SHORT-TERM EXAMPLES

- › Temporarily halt all testing
- › Halt testing that could expose staff to respiratory or other bodily fluids (e.g., oral fluid, breathalyzer testing)
- › Encourage self-disclosure of substance use during supervision or treatment sessions
- › Assure participants that self-reported use during this period will not result in sanction either now or later and that only therapeutic adjustments will be employed

LONG-TERM EXAMPLES

- › Develop alternative drug testing guidelines compatible with the latest CDC information on COVID-19
- › Use technology where appropriate and available (e.g., continuous alcohol monitoring, smartphone monitoring, transdermal patches)
- › Contract with professional labs to provide collection and testing services
- › Update policies and procedures to include virtual staffing procedures