



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP)

Updated March 30, 2020

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) continues to develop coordinated prevention and response plans for COVID-19.

BHA has received complaints/concerns from constituents who live near Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) that they are seeing large numbers of people leaving the clinics with metal containers that they assume contain methadone.

In an effort to prevent your clients from being targeted, stigmatized and singled out, **we strongly encourage programs not to require clients to bring their locked storage containers to the clinics.** If you must have them bring the containers to the clinics, then require that the containers be carried in a bag. Otherwise, just place the medication in a bag with instructions to secure the medication when they arrive home.

Regulations do not require locked containers be brought to the clinics:

42 CFR Part 8

(vii) Assurance that take-home medication can be safely stored within the patient's home; and...

COMAR 10.63

K. Requires that a patient show evidence of the availability of locked storage before a patient may take home any dose of medication; ....

For questions, email [frank.dyson@maryland.gov](mailto:frank.dyson@maryland.gov) or read the latest FAQs for OTPs found on the [BHA website](#).

Thank you,  
  
Frank Dyson

Director of Quality Assurance/State Opioid Treatment Authority (SOTA)