



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

April 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

As the country continues its battle against COVID-19, I am encouraged and inspired, not only by the efforts of all of our healthcare workers who are helping confront this pandemic, but also for those individuals dedicated to maintaining high-quality care for non-coronavirus patients. I write to you today on behalf of some of those individuals, specifically millions of Americans living with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), and those caring for them.

During these uncertain times, it is important that we not lose sight of the very vulnerable population suffering from SUDs. This pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives and our healthcare system. It is critical that those undergoing treatment for SUD continue their treatment, and it is critical that the healthcare professionals who provide this care are able to continue to do so during this time. We are working through many different avenues of communication to ensure that these crucial services remain available.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy is already supporting emergency Federal exemptions to increase access and use of telemedicine in the treatment of SUD during the COVID-19 pandemic; but we know that in-person patient/provider interactions will inevitably occur. Treatment providers and all others associated with maintaining this vital sector of healthcare serve in a critical capacity and will require personal protective equipment (PPE) during unavoidable face-to-face patient interactions. In line with guidance previously issued, President Trump's position is that the treatment of SUD is an essential medical service, and PPE ordered and requested by facilities treating SUD is for a legitimate need and purpose.

The Trump Administration applauds those who are serving these patients on the front line; their dedication is overwhelmingly heartening. I trust that this letter serves as my endorsement that they too need to be protected during these trying times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "C".

James W. Carroll
Director