

SAVE NEW YORK PSYCH AND DETOX SERVICES

Nurses Say to Major Health Systems: Stop Exploiting COVID Loopholes to Shutter Psych and Detox Services

In the height of the COVID surge, Psych and Detox units around the state were converted to treat COVID patients. They now lie empty as the surge has subsided.

But these units aren't being reopened for Psych and Detox services—instead, many major health systems are using the guise of "COVID Surge Plans" to deny mental health care and keep these units shuttered and unavailable to serve a vulnerable patient population—all while reopening their lucrative surgical services.

Nurses call on the following facilities to fully reopen their Psych and/or Detox units:

1. New York Presbyterian- Allen in Manhattan
2. New York Presbyterian- Methodist in Brooklyn
3. Northwell Health- Syosset in Long Island
4. Northwell Health- Methadone Clinic in Brooklyn
5. NYC Health + Hospitals- North Central Bronx
6. Westchester Medical System- Health Alliance in Kingston

New York Psych and Detox Have Been Under Attack for Years:

- ▶ More than 1.6 million New Yorkers live with serious psychological/mental distress.
- ▶ 1 in 5 new Medicaid enrollees used mental or behavioral health services.
- ▶ Treatment Advocacy Center's research found that NYS only has 52% of the inpatient beds needed to treat severe mental illness for the NY population.
- ▶ 12% of people in New York have experienced a substance abuse disorder.
- ▶ NY lost over 40,000 inpatient psychiatric bed days available at NYS Article 28 hospitals since 2013.
- ▶ There is a 19% decrease in staffed beds at NYS-run Psych facilities per the Office of Mental Health's "Transition Plan" – a plan to reduce inpatient Psych.
- ▶ The burden is being picked up by public hospitals. The NYC independent budget office shows a 20% increase in mental health discharges at NYC Health + Hospitals as private providers shed Psych services.
- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic and the related economic fallout will undoubtedly increase the need for inpatient Psych services. Nearly half of Americans reported mental health strain to the Kaiser Family Foundation during this time.
- ▶ In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, when as many inpatient Psych centers went offline, the impact on other hospitals with inpatient Psych beds was immediate and dramatic. Some saw a nearly 70% increase in inpatient Psych patients in the month immediately following the storm.

What New Yorker can read these facts and think closing Psych and Detox services, even temporarily, is a good idea? Join our movement to Save New York Psych and Detox Services by contacting your NYSNA rep and visiting [nysna.org/SaveNYPsych](https://www.nysna.org/SaveNYPsych)