# CT Statewide Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium Newsletter March 2020

# DOT Guidance on Compliance with DOT Drug & Alcohol Testing Regulations Issued on March 23, 2020

ODAPC has issued guidance with compliance regarding DOT drug and alcohol testing regulations, in light of recent and developing events with COVID-19. Any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact our Program Administrator, Danielle Murphy (refer to page 3 for contact info). Here is a link for this guidance: <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/compliance-with-dot-drug-and-alcohol-testing-regulations">https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/compliance-with-dot-drug-and-alcohol-testing-regulations</a>

## **Test Result Reporting**

In case you have to wait longer than usual for test result reporting, contact DISA for **expediting result** (refer to page 3 for contact info).

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# Calendar Year 2019 Management Information System (MIS) Reports

Consortium members' drug and alcohol testing data for calendar year 2019 have already been submitted to FTA on behalf of the Consortium members by the Greater Hartford Transit District. The submitted MIS reports will be emailed to members later on this month.

**Reminder**: 49 CFR 655.71(b)(1) requires that you retain copies of your annual MIS reports submitted to FTA for <u>five years</u>.

# Postponed: 2020 FTA Drug and Alcohol National Conference

FTA has postponed its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference scheduled April 14-16, 2020 in San Diego, California. They are working to schedule a new date for later in the year and will send an announcement once available.

In the interim, they encourage those who registered to monitor FTA's Drug and Alcohol Program website for updates related to the conference.

### **Consortium Training**

- Conflict Resolution Strategy Training for Supervisors and Bringing Balance To Life Training: Due to the current situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19), these training sessions scheduled for March 20, 2020 will be rescheduled at a later date. We will inform you of a new training date / time when it is available.

-Designated Employer Representative, Post-Accident, and Reasonable Suspicion Training: A notification will be sent out regarding the date / time and registration for those three training sessions once available.

### **EAP Newsletter**

#### Reminder:

Ensure to post the EAP Newsletter, which had been provided to you earlier this month, in your agency's breakroom(s).

The information provided in this newsletter may pair well with any current Coronavirus communications.

# 2020 Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Survey

We are very appreciative of the time you have taken to complete this survey. We will meet with our TPA and/or EAP to address the areas that require improvements. Again, thank you for contributing your valuable time in assisting us to improve the service and performance of the CT Statewide Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium.

## Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Third Party Administrator DISA Global Solutions, Inc.

#### **Company Contacts:**

#### **Mobile Operations**

**Scheduling Department** 

Jason Allen 603-623-1100 ext. 1041 or jallen@occupationaldrugtesting.com Veronica Erazo 603-623-1100 ext. 1042 or verazo@occupationaldrugtesting.com

#### Collectors

David Pizzo Laura Taft Christopher Fitzpatrick

#### **Program Administration**

**Account Management** 

Danielle Murphy 800-211-4469 ext. 1031 or dmurphy@occupationaldrugtesting.com

#### **Account Support**

Vicky McLeish 800-211-4469 ext. 1032 or vmcleish@occupationaldrugtesting.com

#### **Accounting**

Jennifer Rindo 800-211-4469 ext. 1061 or irindo@occupationaldrugtesting.com

#### **General Manager**

Lisa Murray 800-608-8890 X402 or Mobile #413-896-2894, email: lisa@transadvisor.com.

#### 24-Hour Drug & Alcohol Testing On-Site

Post-Accident

Reasonable Suspicion

1-800-967-3135 Toll-Free Emergency Line

Be prepared to provide the following information:

Your Name

Agency Name

Phone Number

Location of Incident

Reason for Call (Post-Accident or Reasonable Suspicion)

#### Medical Review Officer (MRO) Department

University Services

Terri Hellings, MD

2800 Black Lake Place, Suite A

Philadelphia, PA 19154

Phone: 800-624-3784 Fax: 215-637-6998

# Enhance Awareness of Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Note: This letter from The Lexington Group should be made available to safety-sensitive employees and also posted in the Break Room



Your Employee Assistance Program
A Woman Owned Enterprise Since 2000

March 2020,

Dear CT Drug Consortium Employee and Family Members:

CT Drug Consortium is delighted to announce The Lexington Group Employee Assistance Program now offers an optional online/video counseling service.

In addition to traditional face-to-face counseling, individuals may now elect the option of online counseling if you so choose. Access to online counseling is now available to you or your household family members by video, phone, and messaging. CT Drug Consortium hopes this new service provides you with more options for quality and convenient care to fit your lifestyle. However, there are three areas which The Lexington Group has determined will better benefit from in-person counseling. These exceptions to online counseling will be: substance abuse, issues in the workplace, and suicidal ideation.

Traditionally, if you or your household family elects to continue face-to-face counseling beyond the available EAP sessions, you are already connected with a counselor who takes your group health insurance. If online counseling is your preferred service method, please note that group health insurance does not cover cost of online counseling. Therefore, The Lexington Group has made arrangements to provide continued online service with your counselor at a deeply reduced rate of \$45.00 a session.

Please be aware that online counseling is completely optional to use. If at any point you wish to opt-out of the service, please contact The Lexington Group. They will provide you with a referral for face-to-face counseling and your covered EAP sessions will reset.

If you or your household family members would like access to this service or read more about your Employee Assistance Program, please visit The Lexington Group website at:

www.The-Lexington-Group.com Passcode: "CTDrugConsort"

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## **Enhance Awareness of EAP (Continued)**

Note: This letter from The Lexington Group should be made available to safety-sensitive employees and also posted in the Break Room

You can request online counseling by calling the 24/7 helpline at:

1-800-676 HELP (4357) UNITED STATES

1-800-567-4343 CANADA

0-800-169-6706 ENGLAND

1-855-328-1185 CAYMAN ISLANDS

1-800-812-411 IRELAND

1-800-955-8339 TTY

We hope you will share our enthusiasm for The Lexington Group, Employee Assistance Program, and the opportunity it presents to help you and your family.

Sincerely,

The Lexington Group

### **On-Site Test Cancellation**

#### Reminder:

- -Original scheduled (random on-site) test should be cancelled as soon as possible if your agency has previously had the safety-sensitive employee tested a day or days prior to the scheduled testing event.
- -Likewise, original scheduled (random on-site) test should be cancelled as soon as possible if the agency knows that the safety-sensitive employee will be unavailable (i.e., vacation).

This will avoid the \$140.00 cancelled test fee being incurred by the Consortium for each cancelled test.

### **Contact & Resource Info**

#### DISA Global Solutions, Inc.

Formerly Occupational Drug Testing (ODT) www.occupationaldrugtesting.com

Toll Free # 800-211-4469

#### The Lexington Group

www.The-Lexington-Group.com

Toll Free # 800-571-0197

#### **Employee Assistance Program**

1-800-676-HELP (4357)

Request clinical services online directly from the web site at:

www.The-Lexington-Group.com

To log on, your customer name is "CT Drug Consortium" And your unique employee password is "CTDrugConsort"

## Are you aware of the availability of program forms and resource documents on GHTD's website?

Go to www.hartfordtransit.org Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium.

Also, checkout the following materials:

What Employers Need to Know About DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing

What Employees Need to Know About DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing

Resources for The Designated Employer Representative (DER)

Lexington Newsletters

FTA Regulation Update Issues

The following <u>FTA website</u> provides a wealth of information such as trainings, newsletters, etc. on the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program that you might find very helpful:

#### www.fta.dot.gov/12533.html

You may also find Title 49 Parts 40 and 655 (FTA regulations on the drug and alcohol testing program) by using the Search engine.