

Inpatient Psychiatry Risk Factors



- frequent safety monitoring
- group therapy sessions
- eating meals together
- shared bathrooms and sleeping rooms
- non-alcohol-based hand sanitizer, limitations
- challenges enforcing hand washing
- closed/crowded wards
- lack of negative pressure rooms, circulation

- medical staff less practiced with isolation procedures

Causes of Further Overcrowding:

- may be unable to discharge patients who test positive
- pandemic-related closing of shelters, social services, psychiatry offices, and other public/clinical services → boarding patients
- worsening of psychiatric symptoms due to pandemic
- further limited staff/physician availability

[1] Bojdani E, Rajagopalan A, Chen A, et al. COVID-19 Pandemic: Impact on psychiatric care in the United States. *Psychiatry Research*. 2020;289:113069. doi:[10.1016/j.psychres.2020.113069](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2020.113069)

[2] Li L. Challenges and Priorities in Responding to COVID-19 in Inpatient Psychiatry. *PS*. 2020;71(6):624-626. doi:[10.1176/appi.ps.202000166](https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202000166)

[3] Zhu Y, Chen L, Ji H, Xi M, Fang Y, Li Y. The Risk and Prevention of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Infections Among Inpatients in Psychiatric Hospitals. *Neurosci Bull*. 2020;36(3):299-302. doi:[10.1007/s12264-020-00476-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12264-020-00476-9)

General Mitigation Strategies

- Require negative tests
- Start patient vaccinations
- Group therapy/milieu changes: physical distancing, group size limits, high risk patients
- Visitor restrictions: hours, locations, vaccine-status, encourage video chat
- Additional air circulation/filters
- Telepsychiatry, reduce team sizes
- System for rapid transfer of symptomatic/positive patients

[1] Zhu Y, Chen L, Ji H, Xi M, Fang Y, Li Y. The Risk and Prevention of Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia Infections Among Inpatients in Psychiatric Hospitals. *Neurosci Bull.* 2020;36(3):299-302. doi:[10.1007/s12264-020-00476-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12264-020-00476-9)

[2] Benson NM, Öngür D, Hsu J. COVID-19 testing and patients in mental health facilities. *Lancet Psychiatry.* 2020;7(6):476-477. doi:[10.1016/S2215-0366\(20\)30198-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(20)30198-X)

[3] Li L. Challenges and Priorities in Responding to COVID-19 in Inpatient Psychiatry. *PS.* 2020;71(6):624-626. doi:[10.1176/appi.ps.202000166](https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202000166)