CT Statewide Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium Newsletter DECEMBER 2024

Random Testing During Holidays

Reminder:

If your agency is operating on a holiday (i.e. Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day), we urge the DERs to schedule random testing on those days. The focus of testing during the winter holiday period is to make safety sensitive employees aware that they can be tested at any time during the Holidays.

Random selections for the **1st quarter of 2025** will be conducted on **December 26th**, **2024**. This timeline allows you sufficient time to schedule the mobile unit for random testing on New Year's Day.

DISA offices will be closed on **December 24th** and **25th** for the holiday. However, mobile units will remain available for emergency calls. Please note that any random or follow-up testing will need to be scheduled in advance.

Please review and ensure the accuracy of your active and covered employee lists prior to the December 26th selection. Make any necessary updates before that date.

If you have any questions, please contact Candice Rouisse at **CTFTA@disa.com**.

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Site Visits

So far, 92% of the site visits have been completed. Thanks to all Designated Employer Representatives (DERs) and Alternate DERs for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with me during the site visits.

Consortium Training

The Consortium will offer a full day drug and alcohol awareness training (in-person) toward the end of January 2025. This training will include three sections: DER training, Post-Accident, and Reasonable Suspicion. More details will be coming soon.

MIS Report

Important information from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding 2024 Drug and Alcohol Management Information System (DAMIS) reporting!

In preparation for 2024 DAMIS reporting, FTA is making some changes in their database to improve consistency among employers and to better track the sources of funds. In the past, they have included all CT employers that are part of the Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD) random testing consortium under GHTD, although many of these employers receive 5307/5309 funds directly from FTA. This year, FTA would like to pull employers out from under the purview of GHTD, and have them report directly in DAMIS, if GHTD does not provide FTA funds to those employers.

Candice Rouisse, Consortium Program Administrator, will prepare and finalize your agency's 2024 MIS report. Your final report shall be provided to the DERs via email by the third week of February 2025.

MIS Report Continued

Based on FTA's direction, GHTD will no longer submit your MIS report. Your agency will receive a letter from the FTA in January 2025 regarding the submission of your agency drug and alcohol testing data such as login information, deadline, and FTA Help Desk contact information.

Feel free to contact Nhan Vo-Le, Consortium Coordinator, if you have any questions regarding the 2024 DAMIS reporting.

FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference March 18-20, 2025

Save the date for the 18th Annual FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference on March 18-20, 2025, in Kansas City, Missouri.

The three-day conference is for Drug and Alcohol Program Managers and other transit officials. The workshop will offer sessions to foster a better understanding of the FTA Prevention of Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use in Transit Operations (49 CFR Part 655) and USDOT Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs (49 CFR Part 40).

This conference is free of charge and registration will open in **February 2025**. Check FTA's **Drug & Alcohol Program webpage** for updates. More information will be provided soon. Please note that attendees shall be financially responsible for all travel related expenses including meals.

Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Third Party Administrator (TPA) DISA Global Solutions, Inc. COMPANY CONTACTS

Mobile Operations Scheduling Department

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Senior Manager, Client Services

David Alexander - Main Telephone #281-673-2400. Email: David.Alexander@disa.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 Richard Weinstein, MD 2800 Black Lake Place,

Suite A

Philadelphia, PA 19154 Phone: 800-624-3784 Fax: 215-637-6998

Enhance Awareness of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

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



TheLexingtonGroup

Your Employee Assistance Program
A Woman Owned Enterprise Since 2000

Dear CT Drug Consortium Employees and Family Members:

The Lexington Group Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides CONFIDENTIAL face-to-face and virtual counseling services to assist employees in identifying and resolving personal problems. Examples include marriage and family issues, job stress, alcohol and drug abuse, depression and other emotional concerns. The Lexington Group services also include referral resources for legal, financial, eldercare, and childcare through the Life Care program.

Because employee lives may be affected by problems with a spouse or other family members, this program is extended to household family members as well. You or your household family members may contact your EAP directly at any time. No matter what your situation, any assistance you seek through the EAP is held in the strictest confidence. Involvement will not jeopardize your job security, future promotional opportunities or reputation.

For confidential and immediate access, you may call The Lexington Group 24/7 at:

1-800-676-HELP (4357)

You may also request services or read more about the program online at:

www.The-Lexington-Group.com

Your unique employee password is "CTDrugConsort"

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

Contact & Resource Information

DISA Global Solutions, Inc.

The Lexington Group

Formerly Occupational Drug Testing (ODT)

www.Disa.com

www.The-Lexington-Group.com

Toll Free # 800-211-4469

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:

https://www.hartfordtransit.org/about/drug-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.