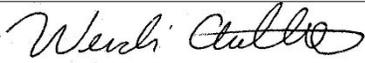


NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Division of Long Term Supports and Services
Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS)

105 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH 03301

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BEAS GENERAL MEMORANDUM (GM)	
DATE:	April 4, 2020
TO:	Deborah Sheetz, DLTSS, All BEAS staff, DLTSS Finance, BEAS Providers, CFI Providers, NH State Commission on Aging, Sandy Hunt, BDS, Lynn Lippitt, NH Housing Authority, Home Health Care Providers, NH Legal Assistance
FROM:	Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Elderly and Adult Services
SIGNATURE:	
SUBJECT:	BEAS COVID-19 Emergency Guidance: Independent Living and Senior Housing
GM NUMBER:	GM 20-16
EFFECTIVE DATE:	April 4, 2020
REGULATORY GUIDANCE:	This memo is a communication tool circulated for informational purposes only. The goal is to provide information and guidance to the individuals to whom it is addressed. The contents of this memo and the information conveyed are subject to change. This communication is not intended to take the place of or alter written law, regulations or rule.

MEMORANDUM SUMMARY
The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance in partnership with New Hampshire Housing Authority for Independent Living Facilities including Senior Housing during the COVID-19 Emergency.



**NH DHHS BEAS COVID-19 Guidance for
Independent Living Facilities including
Senior Housing**



**This guidance is being shared in coordination and partnership with
New Hampshire Housing Authority:**

Who is this Guidance for?

This guidance is for property owners, administrators, operators, workers, and residents of senior housing, retirement communities, and other independent living facilities that are not healthcare facilities.

Why is this guidance being issued?

Some older people and people with disabilities living independently in the community may do so only with the delivery essential services and supports by care providers. Yet because this population may be more at risk to negative COVID-19 outcomes there is an increased need to manage risk of disease transmission through social distancing and other measures. Therefore, it is important to have specific guidance to help property owners, managers, essential care workers, and the residents themselves navigate this risk. This guidance will aim to reduce the likelihood of disease transmission while maintaining access to critical services.

Recommendations from the CDC:

The following is summarized CDC guidance for Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities. For detailed guidance, please see: [CDC Detailed Guidance for Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities](#).

- Encourage residents to social distance and stay in their homes
- Establish a “buddy” system: have residents call to check-in on each other
- Modify and limit face-to-face interactions
- **Ensure continuity of regular care and essential services:**
 - Allow essential care providers to enter your building to provide their services
 - Encourage use of [personal protective measures](#) by essential care workers
 - Emphasizing [respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene](#)
 - Place hand hygiene supplies in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene.
- Screen workers and volunteers for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Implement flexible sick-leave policies for workers
- Ask residents to actively monitor for [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- Promote [everyday preventive actions](#)
- Help residents [manage anxiety](#) related to COVID-19
- Notify the NH DHHS Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after-hours: 603-271-5300) if there is a COVID-19 case or an outbreak of respiratory illness in your retirement community or facility
- Keep residents and visitors informed by using [handouts and high-visibility posters](#) in high-traffic locations

Additional ideas:

- Maintain awareness for COVID-19 activity in your area by monitoring the state [website](#).
- Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g., stagger meal, activity, and arrival/departure times).
- Place chairs and tables at least 6 feet apart during communal dining or similar events.
- Clean and disinfect [common spaces daily](#). A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available [here](#).

The right thing to do is ensure we all have what we need to be well. This moment shows us how much we all need each other to keep going.