

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:	March 17, 2020
TO:	Deborah Scheetz, Director, Division of Long Term Supports and Services; All BEAS Staff; Jayne Jackson, Donna Walker, Shawn Martin, All BEAS Social Service Providers; State Commission on Aging members; Contracted Service Providers for Title III and Title XX nutrition programs
FROM:	Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Elderly and Adult Services
SIGNATURE:	
SUBJECT:	Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services COVID-19 Emergency Guidance for Title III and Title XX Nutrition Services for Congregate Meals #2
GM NUMBER:	20-03 GM #2 GM
EFFECTIVE DATE:	March 17, 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
Provide statewide guidance to Older Americans Act Title III and Social Service Block Grant Nutrition Providers relative to COVID-19 Emergency preparation, response, and continuity of service delivery for congregate meal services.

Following is guidance from BEAS regarding the provision of congregate nutrition services during the COVID-19 Emergency.

BEAS leadership has reviewed the most recent guidelines on social gatherings and recent suspension of onsite dining for bars and restaurants and has determined that the suspension applies to congregate sites. Therefore, Contracted Service Providers for Title III and Title XX nutrition programs will no longer make the determination to temporarily close a congregate meal site in their planning and service area due to COVID-19. A suspension of NH congregate meals is in effect. Congregate sites may continue to be a site for grab-n-go, drive-up, drive-through meals.

As nutrition agencies adjust provision of services plans an update of those service changes will be sent to BEAS for state recording and reporting.

Plans will include how essential nutrition services will be provided; how referrals to other community resources will be established; how outreach efforts to isolated participants will be conducted and how the meal providers will communicate information about the closure and service options to participants.

During the COVID-19 emergency, the Department is offering flexibility as to how meals providers can meet nutritional needs of its members. The options include:

- Offering meals as a take-out meal that participants can pick up.
- Packaging and delivering meals to participants' homes.
- Offering shelf-stable, frozen and grab-and-go meals.

Participants are to be offered an alternative means to receive a meal and be provided information about contacting the local Meals Provider if they need additional assistance or services.

Refer to NH.gov, COVID19, For Home and Community Based Care, for additional information and future updates.

<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/residents/index.htm#hcbc>