



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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TO: New Hampshire Town and City Health Officers

DATE: July 20, 2020

FROM: Lisa Morris, Director

SUBJECT: Sanitary inspections required to reduce spread of Covid-19

New Hampshire Governor Christopher T. Sununu declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020 regarding the worldwide public health crisis caused by COVID-19. Since that time, the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been responding to this emergency through cooperation and collaboration with all federal, State, and local partners. As municipal health officers, you are an essential part of the public health system and a valued partner in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to his powers in RSA 4:45, Governor Sununu issued a series of emergency orders that requires individuals, businesses, and other entities to adhere to public health guidelines to protect the health and safety of the people of this state. DHHS's Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) has been tasked with the enforcement of these orders. Sanitary investigations will be required to ensure compliance with these orders.

Pursuant to RSA 128:5, II, local health officers are tasked with conducting sanitary investigations as required by DHHS. As the State continues to reopen over the coming months, DHHS requires the assistance of health officers to conduct sanitary investigations to help assess compliance with the public health guidelines issued by the Governor and, in turn, reduce the spread of COVID-19. DPHS is confident that local health officers have the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to respond to requests for assistance from the business community or concerns raised by the public.

In an effort to guide you in your duties during this COVID-19 pandemic, DPHS has developed the enclosed health protocols that provide guidance for conducting sanitary assessments in accordance with the Governor's emergency orders.

DPHS staff are able to provide support to local response if needed. If you have any questions about this letter or the enclosed protocols, please contact the NH Health Officer Program at 603-271-3468 or Sophia.Johnson@dhhs.nh.gov or healthofficer@dhhs.nh.gov

Thank you for collaborating on this important step to reduce exposure to Covid-19.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Morris".

Lisa Morris, MSSW
Director

LM/MC/baw