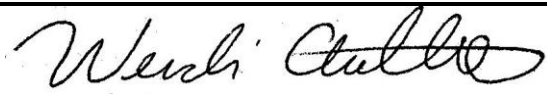


NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Division of Long Term Supports and Services
Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services (BEAS)

105 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH 03301

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BEAS GENERAL MEMORANDUM (GM)	
DATE:	May 13, 2021
TO:	Deborah Scheetz, Director, Division of Long Term Supports and Services (DLTSS); Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Elderly and Adult Services; All BEAS Staff; BEAS contracted Nutrition Providers
FROM:	Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Elderly and Adult Services
SIGNATURE:	
SUBJECT:	COVID-19 Emergency BEAS Guidance for Reopening Congregate Meals Sites
GM NUMBER:	GM 21-19
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Release Date
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
This guidance supersedes GM 20-26, released July 17, 2020 regarding guidance for reopening congregate meals sites. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide nutrition agencies with guidance and resources to assist in their decision for safe reopening and closing of congregate meal sites during COVID-19 emergency. This guidance is not intended as a mandate to reopen congregate dining sites. All BEAS guidance regarding the COVID-19 Emergency is available at https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/covid-guidance.htm .

BEAS is sharing the following information for agencies to consider as they prepare for the return to congregate dining, referred to by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as *Communal* dining. Contracted service providers for Title III and Title XX nutrition programs choosing to open a congregate meals site must ensure that the agency's decision to open is consistent with the CMS Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF) Reopening Guidance for *Communal* dining - a phased and county-based approach adopted by the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (DPHS). LTCF *Communal* dining guidance can be found by following the link below in the section titled **Phases of Reopening** (refer to Phase Tables 0-III, found on pages 4-7). Agencies may allow **Communal Dining** in **Phases I, II, and III**.

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/lctf-visitation.pdf>

Each agency must conduct ongoing monitoring of the Total Active COVID-19 Cases in their county per 100,000 population to determine the current phase of their county/service area. Total Active COVID-19 cases by county may be found using the following link:

[https://dashboard.nh.gov/t/DHHS/views/COVID19InteractiveMapDashboard/DetailedMap-County.pdf?Metric=Active Cases](https://dashboard.nh.gov/t/DHHS/views/COVID19InteractiveMapDashboard/DetailedMap-County.pdf?Metric=Active%20Cases)

Prevalence of active COVID-19 cases may be determined using the following equation:

$$(\text{Number of Total Active Cases} \div \text{Total population of county}) \times 100,000 = \text{Prevalence}$$

Total Population by County:

<u>County</u>	<u>Value</u>
Belknap	61,022
Carroll	48,779
Cheshire	76,493
Coos	31,589
Grafton	89,786
Hillsboro	415,247
Merrimack	151,132
Rockingham	309,176
Strafford	130,090
Sullivan	43,144

Agencies are responsible for monitoring for changes and updates in guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local town and city public health agencies in their service area to ensure adherence to the most current safety guidance.

DPHS has released a Universal Best Practices document that will take effect statewide beginning on Friday, May 7, 2021. Full document may be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/sonh/universal-best-practices.pdf>

As of April 17, 2021, there is no longer a mask mandate in the State of NH, however, private businesses, towns, cities and organizations may still require that masks be worn. Agencies are responsible for monitoring for mask mandates in the towns and cities within their service area.

Please direct questions regarding this memorandum to:

Maureen Brown

Phone: (603) 271-5161

Maureen.brown@dhhs.nh.gov