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Agency of Human Services

To: DS Program Directors, DAIL Housing Safety Super Users, and EverGreen Environmental Health and Safety

From: Selina Hickman, Developmental Disabilities Services Director
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RE: Update on the Resumption of Operations of Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living Home Safety and Accessibility Assessment, post COVID

Date: July 10, 2010

On June 17, 2020, Governor Scott eased the restrictions concerning in-person services for older and vulnerable Vermonters. The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) team overseeing the Housing Safety & Accessibility Inspections of 24-hours non-licensed residential homes with 1- 2 individuals have put together the following plan to get the inspections re-started on August 3, 2020.

When the agencies are given the ability to schedule Home Safety and Accessibility Inspections, the following order of importance will be used:

1. Homes that had Emergency Placements;
2. New shared living homes;
3. Follow-up on homes that had an initial assessment completed which had deficiencies.
4. Long-time outstanding locations (homes) in the DAIL Housing Portal that do not have a home safety assessment Approved (completed);
5. Homes that are due for a 5-year re-inspection.

These inspections will be completed by the DAIL Housing Contractor, Evergreen Environmental Health & Safety, Inc., and they will be performed primarily in individual, single family homes. The inspections will be requested and monitored by representatives from the local provider agency, typically a service coordinator.

To be successful, this plan must ensure that both the contractor and representative from the Provider Agency have taken all necessary steps to ensure the exposure and spreading of COVID-19 doesn't happen. In order for this to happen the following must be in place for each inspection:

- Follow all mandatory precautions found on the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) website (<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19>) as well as CDC, DAIL, and VDH guidance, including keeping six feet apart, using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), frequently washing hands with soap and water, avoiding others when sick, and more.
- Before scheduling the housing inspection, the agency representative/service coordinator must evaluate the risk status of the individual who will be living in the home as well as the potential shared living providers and others who live in the home.
- The agency representative/service coordinator will ensure that the required pre-inspection of the home, either in person or remotely, has been completed and the other processes including the completion of the Housing Safety and Accessibility Review **Home Safety Assessment Request for Housing Contractor** form done, in order to minimize the amount of time needed within the home for the inspection to be completed by the housing contractor. See the Housing Safety & Accessibility Inspection Protocol for details.
- The agency representative/service coordinator will have a discussion with the individual, potential shared living provider and the housing contractor to ensure that all parties involved are comfortable proceeding with the inspection visit.
- On the scheduled day for the home inspection visit, the agency representative/service coordinator, housing contractor and potential shared living provider must perform the health screening below on themselves. The service coordinator will verify the status of each party before the inspection visit begins. If the agency representative/service coordinator, housing contractor, individual or potential shared living provider answer yes to any of the questions on the screening, the inspection will be rescheduled until all are confirmed to be negative for COVID-19.



<p>PRE-SCREENING HEALTH SURVEY FOR EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS ENTERING STATE OF VERMONT FACILITIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC In the past 14 days have you had close contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19?</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>Today or in the past 24 hours have you had any of the following symptoms?</p>	
<p>Cough</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>Fever (> 100.4°F / 38°C) or felt feverish</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>Chills</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>Muscle Pain</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>Sore Throat</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>New loss of taste or smell</p>	<p>Yes No</p>

- During the inspection all participants must
 1. Sanitize hands before entering and after leaving the home.
 2. The housing inspector and all others entering the home will ensure any equipment or items they are bringing into the home have been sanitized before entering and again after leaving the home.
 3. Ensure there are no more than four (4) people in the home during the inspection visit, including the housing contractor, the agency representative/service coordinator, the individual and the potential shared living provider.
 4. Wear a mask or face shield during the inspection process within the home.
 5. Maintain a 6-foot physical distance, as the space within the home will allow.

- After the inspection, the agency representative/service coordinator and housing contractor will sanitize the belongings they brought into the home and their vehicle before returning to their office or onto another home/site.



- The agency representative/service coordinator and housing contractor will maintain contact logs for the inspections in case anyone involved is later diagnosed as being COVID-19 positive and contact tracing becomes necessary.

