

MEMO

To: DAIL Home & Community-Based Provider

From: Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissio



Date: June 11, 2021

Re: DAIL Guidance re: In-Person Home & Community-Based Services

On June 22, 2020, and March 25, 2021, the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) published guidance memos for providers of in-person home and community-based services. The guidance memos included education about infection control measures, self-assessing readiness, required VOSHA training, and reopening plans in line with the Governor's Restart Vermont strategy.

This memo is intended to provide updated guidance for providers of in-person home and community-based services. Health care personnel, licensed Long-Term Care (LTC) facilities and Adult Day centers follow sector-specific guidance.

- [Health Care Personnel](#)
- [LTC Facility Guidance](#)
- [Adult Day Centers](#)

Please continue to use the following links for the most up-to-date guidance:

1. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 Website](#)
2. [DAIL COVID-19 Website](#)
3. [Governor's Executive Orders](#)
4. [Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 Website](#)
5. [Vermont Travel Guidance](#)

NEW Guidance:

1. [NEW: Vermont Forward Plan](#) - The Governor's [Vermont Forward Plan](#) provides new standards for gatherings, masking and distancing for Vermont citizens, businesses, and organizations. Movement through the steps is based on Vermont's vaccination rate. As of May 14, 2021, Vermont was in "Step 3" of the plan. It is anticipated that Vermont will move to "Step 4" by July 4, 2021.

2. [NEW: Universal Guidance](#) - Vermont's Universal Guidance applies to all businesses and organizations. Any business or organization is free to take additional safety precautions for the health and safety of its employees and consumers.

Please note that many in-person home and community-based services are considered “high-touch” or hands-on and provided to consumers who are at [high risk of complications due to COVID-19](#). It is recommended that employees (excluding members of the same household) who provide [health care services, regardless of vaccination status](#), continue to mask when working with a consumer, which is the standard CDC recommends for [health care personnel](#). If an employee does not clearly fall into the “health care personnel” category, providers may still require masks for all employees (excluding members of the same household) regardless of vaccination status, who provide “high touch” or hands-on services to consumers.

Though health screenings of employees and consumers is no longer required before the delivery of services, it is recommended that employees continue to [self-screen](#) prior to arriving at work. Employees must stay home if they have signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Consumers should be educated how to self-screen. Employees may continue to ask health screening questions prior to delivery of in-person services to a consumer including a visual inspection of the consumer for signs of [COVID-19 symptoms](#). It is recommended that anyone with symptoms contact their doctor and get tested.

DAIL will continue to evaluate the status of the Governor's executive orders to assure compliance and consistency across our provider networks throughout the Reopening Vermont effort. Please communicate with your designated DAIL program representative for technical assistance and important updates.

Thank you for your continued support of Vermonters during this transition forward.