

MEMO

To: DAIL Provider Network

From: Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner

Date: May 19, 2020

Re: DAIL Guidance re: Essential Services

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance to home and community-based services providers as the Governor continues to evaluate and announce “Restart Vermont” efforts, aimed towards slowly opening services while preventing the spread of COVID-19.

On May 15, 2020, Governor Scott issued Executive Order 01-20, Addendum 14, that outlined the continued phased re-opening of businesses and social gatherings. The addendum states that older adults (age 65 and over), and people with underlying medical conditions, should continue to shelter in place, and that Vermonters should do everything they can to help keep them safe. It also says, “Businesses and non-profit and government entities which have not been authorized to resume operations as of the date of this Executive Order shall be addressed at a later date.”

Per Executive Order 01-20, Addendum 14, the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) “Essential Services” guidance issued on March 25, 2020, continues to apply to the delivery of in-person human services. As a reminder, “Essential Services” are services that assure the health and safety of a person (including economic security). At the same time, it is very important that providers continually evaluate what is “essential” to each consumer. For example, it is possible that in-person services that were considered “non-essential” last month (such as case management, homemaker and supported employment), may now be “essential” because they directly contribute to health and safety of the consumer. Please refer to the [DAIL March 25, 2020 memo](#), [Executive Order 01-20, Addendum 14](#), and [Agency of Commerce and Community Development sector guidance for Human Services](#).

As providers prepared for the eventual re-opening of in-person “non-essential” services and the delivery of congregate services (such as senior centers and adult day centers), it is important that providers learn how to implement the **Mandatory Health and Safety Requirements for all Business, Nonprofits & Governmental Operations** as required by the Vermont Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidelines, Vermont Occupational Safety and Health Administration (VOSHA) and The Vermont Agency for Commerce and Community Development. Below are some links to important resources to get started.

Restart Vermont Resources

- [Agency of Commerce and Community Development Recovery Resource Center](#)
 - [Mandatory Health & Safety Requirements](#)
 - [Model Pre-Screening Health Survey](#)
 - [Model Pre-Screening Procedures](#)
 - [Request for Additional Help Online Form](#)
 - [Restart Vermont FAQ](#)
 - [Signage](#)
- [VOSHA – Mandatory Training & Materials](#)
- [VOSHA – Reopening & Training Plans](#)

Vermont Department of Health Resources

- [Health Alerts & Advisories](#) (HAN)
- [PPE Use Guidance](#)
- [PPE Resource Request Form](#)

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

Thank you for your continued support of Vermonters during this very challenging time.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION & UPDATES – Please visit the Vermont Health Department's, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention OR the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living's website at:

- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/infectious-disease/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://dail.vermont.gov/novel-coronavirus-information>