

MEMO

To: DAIL Provider Network

From: Megan Tierney-Ward, Deputy Commissioner 

Date: June 22, 2020

Re: DAIL Guidance re: In-Person Services

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance to in-person 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 June 17, 2020, Governor Scott announced easing of restrictions for "older and vulnerable Vermonters" along with continued emphasis on precautions:

- Continue to follow all CDC and VDH guidance, including keeping six feet apart, frequently washing hands with soap and water, avoiding others when sick, and more.
- Avoid high risk areas (positive rate, trend in case rates, outbreaks).
- Whenever possible, choose outdoor activities and keep indoor contact brief.
- Minimize face to face contact while talking or while doing activities that require exertion.
- Watch the size of the room and the number of people in the room

The Governor also announced new outdoor visitation guidance for long-term care facilities, easing of hospital visitation and re-opening of senior centers.

Easing of restrictions means that human services providers may begin to provide in-person "non-essential services" to older and vulnerable Vermonters following all mandatory precautions found on the [Agency of Commerce and Community Development \(ACCS\)](#) website. Refer to the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL) [Guidance Regarding Essential Services](#) memo dated [May 19, 2020](#) for a description of essential versus non-essential services. Services that are being provided remotely may continue to do so as long as they are effectively meeting the consumers' assessed needs. **Note that the current mandatory precautions place limitations on congregate activities and does not yet allow for Adult Day Centers to reopen.**

Provider networks that receive oversight by DAIL must assure that they are prepared to:

1. meet the mandatory restart requirements,
2. protect people who are most vulnerable to infection, and
3. prevent further spread of COVID-19.

Many providers networks have already begun creating plans to reopen in-person services. **Please work with your designated DAIL program staff for technical assistance and to verify the planning process for your provider network. Due to the differences in service systems, the process may vary.**

Reopening In-Person Services - Planning Steps

Step 1: Provider networks read and learn the available Vermont resources:

- [Executive Orders](#)
- [Agency of Commerce and Community Development \(ACCD\) Recovery Resource Center](#)
- [CDC PPE Use Training](#)
- [CDC Reopening Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting](#)
- [CDC Cleaning & Disinfecting Guidelines](#)
- [CDC Cleaning & Disinfecting Transport Vehicles](#)
- [Mandatory Health & Safety Requirements](#)
- [Model Pre-Screening Health Survey](#)
- [Model Pre-Screening Procedures](#)
- [Restart Vermont FAQ](#)
- [Sample Self-Assessment – Senior Center Reopening Self-Assessment](#)
- [Sample Signage](#)
- [VDH - Health Alerts & Advisories](#) (HAN)
- [VDH PPE Use Guidance](#) & [PPE Resource Request Form](#)

Step 2: Providers complete a self-assessment of their readiness to reopen including their ability to follow all mandatory precautions and training. (See sample above.)

Step 3: Providers complete mandatory [VOSHA Training](#).

Step 4: Provider networks create a reopening sector plan using the [VOSHA Exposure Control Plan Template](#) and [Phased Restart Work Safe Guidance](#). DAIL staff will provide technical assistance to provider networks. Provider networks may also reach out to the [Agency of Commerce and Community Development \(ACCS\)](#) for sector-specific guidance on creating the plan by using the [Request Additional Sector Plan Guidance online 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 and important updates.

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