


N.H. Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)
Division of Long Term Supports and Services (DLTSS)
Bureau of Elderly & Adult Services (BEAS)

105 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH 03301

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BEAS GENERAL MEMORANDUM (GM)	
DATE:	July 17, 2020
TO:	Deborah Scheetz, Division Director, Division of Long Term Supports and Services (DLTSS); Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Elderly and Adult Services; Kristina Ickes, CFI Program Administrator, Jayne Jackson, DLTSS Finance Director; Jennifer Doig, DLTSS Finance Administrator; Kerri King, IT Manager, Options Helpdesk; All BEAS Staff; BEAS contracted Nutrition Providers
FROM:	Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Elderly and Adult Services
SIGNATURE:	
SUBJECT:	BEAS Guidance for Reopening Congregate Meals Sites
GM NUMBER:	GM 20-26
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 20-03 #2 GM, released March 17, 2020 regarding suspension of NH congregate meals. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide nutrition agencies with guidance and resources to assist in their decision for safe opening and closing of congregate meal sites during COVID-19 emergency. This guidance is not intended as a mandate to reopen congregate dining sites.

The Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services is sharing the following information for agencies to consider as they prepare for the future return to congregate dining, referred to by CMS as communal dining. Contracted service providers for Title III and Title XX nutrition programs choosing to open a communal dining site should ensure that the agency’s decision is consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (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 is contained in the pdf below in the section titled **Guidance for LTCF Reopening Phase 1**.
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-19-ltcguidance.pdf>

Agencies will also need to monitor LTCF regional openings and closings to remain up to date on guidance. This information may be found in the CMS LTCF Reopening Guidance, by clicking on Active COVID-19 Cases, or at the website below under the *COVID-19 Summary Dashboard*, **Map of Current Positive Cases** tab.
<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/>

Agencies should continue to stay informed and adhere to safety guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the NH Department of Public Health.

Please direct questions regarding this memorandum to:

Maureen Brown

Maureen.brown@dhhs.nh.gov

Phone: (603) 271-5161