



Dear Member,

In response to the CMS issued [Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention of Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Nursing Homes \(REVISED\)](#), The Maine Director of the Division of Licensing and Certification, Bill Montejo, RN has released the following updated guidance and has asked MHCA to ensure that our assisted living facilities receive this information:

To all Facility Administrators:

I just want to send out a quick update for all providers to make you aware of recent changes to the CDC guidance. Please note that where there are so many variations of Assisted Housing and Residential Care facilities across the United States, the Federal CDC simply refers to Assisted Housing and residential Care providers as “other Long Term Care Settings.” Please reference the [CDC guidance](#) to obtain more information and I am also including a screenshot for reference.

Also, please note that Hospice staff, Home Health Agency staff providing care for residents in Assisted Housing facilities, Adult Protective Services staff and staff from the Division of Licensing and Certification are considered essential staff and may not be barred or prohibited from entering licensed facilities; the Federal CDC has helped to clarify some of the confusion regarding Non-essential by indicating the reference applies to professionals such as barbers, “Restrict all volunteers and non-essential healthcare personnel (HCP), including non-essential healthcare personnel (e.g., barbers).”

Thank you for all of your efforts to continue to monitor and stay update with this ever changing situation.

Bill

**Bill Montejo, RN
Director, Division of Licensing and Certification
Department of Health and Human Services**

In addition MHCA and our national organization AHCA has received many calls/questions regarding the CMS guidance for cancelling communal dining. We recognize the complexities of providing in-room dining to everyone. We did reach out to Bill Montejo on this issue and Bill provided the following suggestion:

‘facilities could create staggered dining services in order to space residents apart for social distancing to reduce the spread of exposure. The key will be for each facility to do the best they can with the limited staff and resources they have.’

As always MHCA appreciates all you are doing to ensure you, your residents, families and staff are safe during this situation. We are here to help with any questions, concerns, scenarios etc. We are monitoring email throughout the weekend and can be reached by phone;

- Rick Erb, rerb@mehca.org or 207-441-7138;
- Nadine Grosso, ngrosso@mehca.org or 207-653-0064;
- Danielle Watford, dwatford@mehca.org or 207-312-9391.

Please don't hesitate to reach out anytime this weekend and moving forward.

Thank you for all you do,

Danielle Watford, MS, MSIO, CMQ-OE
Director of Quality and Regulatory Affairs
Maine Health Care Association

