

From: **Williams, Edwina** <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov>
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Subject: Governor Northam Announces New Statewide Measures to Contain COVID-19
To: <DSS_LICENSING@listserv.cov.virginia.gov>

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE: November 17, 2020

TO: Assisted Living Facility and Adult Day Care Center Providers

FROM: Tara D. Ragland, Director
Division of Licensing Programs

RE: Governor Northam Announces New Statewide Measures to Contain COVID-19

This memo is to inform you of revisions to existing Executive Orders announcing new actions to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Virginia. The following additional steps to reduce the spread of infection went into effect at midnight on Sunday, November 16, 2020. Please carefully review these mandates and adjust the services and care you deliver.

Reduction in public and private gatherings: All public and private in-person gatherings must be limited to 25 individuals, down from the current cap of 250 people. This includes outdoor and indoor settings. This does not include resident dining when requirements for social distancing can be met.

Expansion of mask mandate: All Virginians aged five and over are required to wear face coverings in indoor public spaces. This expands the current mask mandate, which has been in place in Virginia since May 29 and required all individuals aged 10 and over to wear face coverings in indoor public settings with noted medical exception. This means face coverings are to be worn indoors by everyone aged five and above when in non-residential parts of the assisted living facility and in adult day care centers.

Strengthened enforcement within essential retail businesses: All essential retail businesses, including grocery stores and pharmacies, must adhere to statewide guidelines for physical distancing, wearing face coverings, and enhanced cleaning. While certain essential retail businesses have been required to adhere to these regulations as a best practice, violations will now be enforceable through the Virginia Department of Health as a Class One misdemeanor.

Implementation of these additional restrictions are required in an effort to reduce the spread of infection and save lives. We know this is challenging and that some of these measures may impact the way you conduct service delivery. VDSS appreciates all you continue to do in support of your residents, their families and your staff.

The full text of amended Executive Order Sixty-Three and Order of Public Health Emergency Five and sixth amended Executive Order Sixty-Seven and Order of Public Health Emergency Seven are available [here](#). The Virginia Department of Health [COVID-19 website](#) posts the latest information under the Long-Term Care Facilities and Other Residential Settings tab.

Please contact your Licensing Inspector if you have questions.