

Memo

Date: 05/11/2020

To: Corporate adult foster care, community residential settings authorized agents

From: DHS Licensing

RE: Additional waivers to certain licensing requirements during COVID-19 pandemic

On May 8, 2020, the Commissioner of Human Services announced additional waivers to certain adult foster care and community residential settings licensing requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes are effective May 8, 2020, and are anticipated to be for the duration of the peacetime emergency.

New requirement for programs operating during the peacetime emergency

1. During the peacetime emergency, license holders are required to be familiar with [Minnesota Department of Health \(MDH\)](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) guidelines on COVID-19. This is an ongoing requirement, as the guidance will evolve during the pandemic. DHS will communicate current guidance and any updated guidance via email and on the DHS website directly to licensed corporate adult foster care and community residential settings and to county licensors who are expected to share this guidance with family adult foster care providers and family adult day service providers. If a person receiving services or the license holder, a household member, caregiver, or staff person has symptoms of COVID-19, the license holder must follow the MDH and CDC guidelines specific to the situation and program capabilities. In addition, if any of these individuals tests positive for COVID-19, the license holder must notify MDH and the county or private licensing agency and follow any guidance provided by MDH.

Modifications of certain licensing requirements for adult foster care/community residential settings

1. **Orientation requirement: Minnesota Rules, part 9555.5505, subpart 2**
During the peacetime emergency, orientation may be condensed to less than three hours. At a minimum, training on the requirements of the Vulnerable Adults Act must be provided.

Reminder: orientation training does not have to be completed in-person. Training that is available online is acceptable. An alternative format (video chats, phone calls, etc.) may also be used to meet this requirement.