Reopen Guidance for Congregate Nutrition Services

COVID-19 Guidance

Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Most recent key revisions are colored blue.

Time: 4:00 PM

Recent releases: 5/27/2020

Congregate Nutrition Services Reopen Measures

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency and reopening period, to protect the health of older Kansans, the agency requests that providers and participants proceed in accordance with Governor Laura Kelly’s Plan to Reopen Kansas. The agency strongly encourages the continued provision of nutrition services such as box lunches, pick-up or home-delivered meals to congregate meal clients.

1. To avoid setbacks during the reopening process:
   - Continue to follow county and local emergency management restrictions and recommendations;
   - Providers, staff and participants should stay home if they are sick;
   - Wear masks in public settings;
   - Maximize physical distance (6 ft or more) in public settings;
   - Avoid socializing in large groups;
   - Minimize nonessential travel;
   - Check in (via phone/letter/text/email) with participants who are isolated;
   - Encourage frequent handwashing.

2. High-risk individuals include those with underlying medical conditions, including, chronic lung disease, asthma, heart conditions, severe obesity, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, or otherwise immunocompromised. According to the CDC, older adults seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. During Phase One, Phase 1.5 and Phase Two:
   - High-risk individuals and older adults are advised to continue to stay home except for essential needs.
   - Telework is strongly encouraged for all employees when possible.

3. Congregate Nutrition Settings and Senior Centers should remain closed to older adult participants until Phase Three, no earlier than June 8, 2020. At this time, the sites may open if:
   - They can maintain 6 ft distance between consumers (individuals or groups);
   - Fundamental cleaning and public health practices are followed;
   - Avoiding any instances in which groups of more than 30 individuals are in one location and are unable to maintain 6 feet of distance with only infrequent or incidental moments of closer proximity.

4. Continue to follow the Governor’s guidelines for Phase Out. All Public Health Guidelines should continue to be followed.

5. High-Risk individuals and older adults should:
   - Continue to wear face masks when interacting with other individuals;
   - Monitor health and potential symptoms closely and report any signs of COVID-19;
   - Limit all travel;
● Telework if possible;
● Limit attending gatherings of any number of people;
● Do not visit nursing homes or other residential care facilities if possible.

6. Administration for Community Living (ACL) Reopening Guidelines for Senior Nutrition Programs may be view here: https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/common/AoA%20-%20Nutrition%20Reopening-Final%20-%205-20_1_0.docx

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