

May 5, 2020

Letter to New Hampshire Health Officers from State Health Officials

Governor Sununu has recently implemented a phased reopening of the economy called ‘Stay at Home 2.0’ that will be in effect until May 31st. Outlined in [Executive Order #40](#), this plan includes a phased approach to re-opening the economy. Applicable industries are able to start opening up in incremental phases described below:

May 1st: Public and private campgrounds; State Parks; Manufacturing Operations (Currently Allowed to Operate with Modified Guidance)

May 4th: Certain Health Care Services

May 11th: Retail Stores; Drive in Movie Theaters; Public and Private Golf Courses; Barbers and Hair Salons

May 18th: Restaurants

In preparation for the re-opening of businesses, Universal Guidance have been issued for any business that is currently open, or will soon be opening, under these next steps. This universal guidance will serve as the bare minimum standards which businesses must meet to maintain or begin operations. For the other business sectors listed by the dates above, additional guidance has also been provided [here](#).

What does this mean for Health Officers?

As a Health Officer, you may receive complaints that a business isn’t operating in compliance with the Universal Guidelines or specific guidelines for businesses to operate in a way the prevents the spread of COVID-19. You should discuss the situation with town or city officials to determine how to respond to the situation. Health officers have the authority to assess health risks from COVID-19, and if the business isn’t compliant, they can bring in law enforcement to enforce the executive orders.

As a Health Officer, you have specific skills to perform inspections, assess health risks, and recommend correct cleaning procedures. Please review the [Universal Guidelines for All New Hampshire Employers and Employees](#) document to understand what is required. In order to support your assessment of the Universal Guidelines, we are in the process of creating a mini webinar to provide an overview of this guidance and what tools are available to you to assist in your inspections and assessments. More information about this webinar will be sent out soon.

Thank you for protecting the public health.

Sophia Johnson
Sophia Johnson, MPH
Health Officer Specialist
NH DHHS/DPHS/Bureau of Public Health Protection
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301
Phone: 603-271-4072
Email: Sophia.Johnson@dhhs.nh.gov

ATTENTION: please visit the DHHS COVID-19 website for the latest COVID-19 information, resources and guidance: <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>