

NCCMH RESPONSE TO COVID-19

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PROVIDER COMMUNICATION

NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
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NCCMH RESPONSE TO COVID-19: Freedom of Movement in Community Settings

The Governor's current orders do not specifically prevent recipients from leaving their homes, visiting others, working, or engaging in community activities. So, what do they say?

Executive Order [2020-115](#) (*until further order*) applies to ALL Michigan residents and has lifted the stay at home restrictions with continued precautions:

Any individual who leaves his or her home or place of residence must:

1. Follow social distancing measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), including remaining at least six feet from people from outside the individual's household to the extent feasible under the circumstances
2. Wear a face covering over his or her nose and mouth—such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchief—when in any enclosed public space, unless the individual is unable medically to tolerate a face covering.

Executive Order [2020-136](#) (*expires 7/24/20*) continues the order to prohibit entry to most visitors at AFC homes. Although this order restricts visitors from coming in, it does not restrict clients from going out. This order also requires all staff/ visitors who enter to be screened and to wear face coverings. It is reasonable to screen recipients who leave the home or have known exposure to a COVID-19 positive person. If there are symptoms or known exposure, contact the Health Department for further guidance. They may impose a quarantine order which carries the weight of the law.

The Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) which licenses group homes (AFC's) has issued the following guidance regarding residents leaving an AFC:

"The Governor's order does not prohibit residents from leaving the facility...At this time, it is advised (but not required) that the homes educate residents on the associated risk of leaving the facility and educate residents on social distancing, hand hygiene, wearing a mask in public, etc. to limit the residents risk when outside the facility. The facility must allow the resident to return to their home..."

Executive Order [2020-123](#) (*expires 7/12/20*) prohibits "communal dining and all internal and external group activities" at long term care facilities (including AFC's and some unlicensed settings). The CDC guidelines on which this directive is based, explain "group activities" as

activities in which six feet of distance between individuals cannot be maintained. The executive order also states that a resident must not be denied access to their homes and defines the transfer protocols concerning a COVID-19 affected resident.

For clients who wish to work, NCCMH is asking the Supports Coordinator to conduct a risk assessment of the proposed workplace to assure that the employer is following the [Executive Orders regarding workplace safety](#). They will assess the client's ability to maintain social distancing and wear a face covering as is required by law. They will also determine if there are any additional safeguards that are needed to assure the safety of the individual and/or others especially those in the high-risk category. NCCMH is committed to safely supporting our clients goals as outlined in their IPOS's.

In rare cases, it may be necessary to limit or restrict a recipient from certain public activities (freedom of movement) for their own or others' health and safety. In those cases, the restrictions will be completed through the POS with oversight by the Behavior Treatment Committee.

**As always, these orders are subject to change and often do. We will update you as information is received.*

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