

Governor



KRISTIN M. PROUD Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 18, 2022

DAL: NH 22-04 DHCBS 22-03

SUBJECT: Hospice Personnel Entry to Nursing Homes

Dear Administrator:

This letter is a clarification of the Department of Health's January 12, 2022, Health Advisory: Nursing Home Staff and Visitation Requirements. The advisory omitted identification of hospice personnel as exempt from the testing requirements of the Advisory. Hospice personnel visiting residents of nursing homes receiving contracted hospice services from an Article 40 hospice are providers who are exempt from testing, and <u>are not to be treated as visitors to the nursing home</u>.

Hospices are reminded that providers are required to screen staff as outlined in the March 22, 2020 DAL 20-08, Re: COVID-19 Guidance for Home Health Care Agencies and Hospice Providers. In addition, COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots are a regulatory requirement of the Public Health Law. Hospices are also advised to report any instances in which a nursing home prevents contracted hospice personnel from entering the nursing home in order to service patients on hospice to the Department of Health Regional Office or to send an email to covidhomecareinfo@health.ny.gov.

Sincerely,

Sheila Mc Garvey

Sheila T. Mcgarvey Director, Nursing Home and ICR/MR Surveillance

Carol A Rodat

Carol A. Rodat Director, Division of Home and Community-Based Services

cc: Mark Hennessey Valerie Deetz Regional Office Program Managers