



JB Pritzker, Governor
Paula A. Basta, M.Div., Director

One Natural Resources Way, Suite 100, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
Phone: 800-252-8966 • 888-206-1327 (TTY) • Fax: 217-785-4477

Immediate AAA Guidance on Congregate Settings

Illinois older adults are among the highest risk population group for becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. Locations where seniors gather such as congregate meal sites and senior centers may increase the risk of transmitting COVID-19 and community spreading of the virus. On Monday, March 9, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker declared a state of emergency based on new guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and evidence emerging across other countries and throughout the United States.

The Illinois Department on Aging is requesting all Area Agencies on Aging to **immediately** suspend all gathering activities placing our older adults at heightened risk including the provision of congregate meals and social activities conducted in group settings. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our participants and ensure continuity of essential services each AAA must:

- Notify providers, staff, and clients that group activities and congregate gatherings will be suspended within 24 hours. The IDoA recommends individual services for seniors such as benefit assistance, tax preparation, and Benefit Access Application (BAA) applications continue without interruption;
- Notify providers, staff, and clients of an immediate alternative to the suspension of congregate dining such as box lunch service, pick-up option or home-delivered meal;
- Obtain a list of clients impacted by the temporary closure of congregate meal sites together with phone numbers and emergency contact numbers to ensure follow-up;
- Determine how to provide regular updates to affected seniors;
- For congregate meal recipients that receive CCP services, please communicate with the respective CCUs regarding the provision of alternative meals, e.g. box lunch service.

During this temporary suspension, nutrition screenings may be waived by providers to ensure older adults are provided with meals. IDoA will remain in close contact with the AAAs with updated guidance and recommendations.

Respect for yesterday. Support for today. Planning for tomorrow.
www.illinois.gov/aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966; 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)