



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

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 are not to be treated as visitors to the nursing home.

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

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

cc: Mark Hennessey
Valerie Deetz
Regional Office Program Managers