

Good Afternoon All,

Today, Governor Mills signed an Executive Order which will allow licensed healthcare professionals more flexibility during this state of emergency.

Also, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has identified 16 **Essential** Critical Infrastructure Workforce during this COVID-19 pandemic. As you can imagine, healthcare is on the list. Areas that are considered non-essential are shutting down, with the goal of reallocating resources and preventing the spread of this virus through contact.

We cannot stress enough how important it is to limit contact with others and maintain a minimum of 6 feet distance when you need to be face-to-face. To help with defining 6 feet, masking tape has been placed on the floor in the front lobby of Central Office and in common areas, such as the photocopier room, to help us remember this critical distance.

If you come to Central Office, one of several changes that you will notice is the sign-in/sign-out pen at the reception desk. It has been removed. You should be utilizing your own pen, rather than sharing with others, because this is a very common way of transferring germs. If you don't have a pen, the receptionist will sign you in. All reading materials that are found in lobbies, waiting rooms, etc., have been removed, as this is another way things can get transferred from one person to another. Chairs should also be placed 6 feet apart, or greater, to promote social distancing.

These little things all add up, making sure we and our consumers/residents can be as safe. Check out your work environment and see what you can do to promote social distance.

Maine presently has 142 confirmed cases. Yesterday, Maine had eight counties that did not have any confirmed cases; today, Waldo County confirmed its first. Presently, Aroostook has no confirmed cases. That doesn't mean that COVID-19 is not here; we still need to be very careful.

On the national front, several states began using certain medications yesterday to see if they are going to be effective against this virus. More information will be forthcoming as they evaluate the effectiveness.

As a reminder, limit face-to-face contact unless absolutely necessary, wash your hands frequently, clean work surfaces often, and distance yourself from others by at least 6 feet.

Have a great evening. Stay safe.

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