

Eagle Lake Office  
PO Box 310  
Eagle Lake, ME 04739  
Telephone (207) 444-5152  
Fax (207) 444-6099



Caribou Office  
PO Box 187  
Caribou, ME 04736  
Telephone (207) 492-1036  
Fax (207) 492-1830

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## **NMG prepares for worst-case scenarios**

**EAGLE LAKE, Maine** (April 17, 2020) – Building on its previous actions to protect everyone locally during this international pandemic, Northern Maine General is actively preparing for worst-case scenarios involving COVID-19 presenting on its campus, in its offices, and/or in its community.

With still no consumers or employees reported to have COVID-19 to date, the agency's Pandemic Plan is nonetheless rolling forth.

For example,

- Mercy Home, the agency's nursing home, has now established isolation areas.
- Franciscan Home and all other group homes have plans prepared should they need to quarantine a consumer or consumers. One of the options that would allow for further separation, for example, is the use of newly-vacant homes owned by the agency.
- In anticipation of front-line nursing home employees who may not want to return home to family between shifts, the agency is prepared to allow for sleep and shower quarters.
- Consumers will be offered and encouraged to wear a mask if they exhibit signs of the virus. Employees have already been mandated to wear masks, effective this past Monday.
- Trainings and re-trainings continue for pandemic measures, such as Hand Washing and Appropriate Social Distancing, with "focus training" added for both staff and consumers.
- NMG is providing Focus Training on the use of Personal Protective Equipment. For example, nursing management recently discussed educating nursing staff on how to test for properly-fitting medical masks, should those masks become necessary.
- NMG continues to work with FEMA, Maine Health Care Association, Maine Association for Community Service Providers, and additional distributors to obtain sufficient supplies.

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***Our mission is to provide individuals with the highest standard of care and help all of the people we serve enjoy life to the fullest potential.***

- NMG continues to communicate with colleagues throughout the state and with the Center for Disease Control to enhance agency and nursing home preparedness.

“We are very lucky to have so many quality people affiliated with NMG, from maintenance staff and nursing staff who are going the extra mile to our dedicated and supportive Board members,” said CEO Michelle Raymond. “I want to assure everyone that we are working very hard to prepare for all scenarios to protect the health and well-being of our consumers, employees, and families.”

*Northern Maine General is a nonprofit social services organization serving Aroostook County, with business offices in Eagle Lake and Caribou. Founded in 1907, NMG provides long-term care, rehabilitation, home and community supports, behavioral health services, target case management, and consultation services and resources. Contracted services include subsidized apartments.*

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