



Toolkit – Essential Caregiver

Updated: July 17, 2020

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) [issued guidance](#) that allows the designation of an essential caregiver for residents of nursing homes and assisted living. This guidance is a recommendation, not a mandate or requirement. **Sites electing to implement an Essential Caregiver program have until July 25** to draft policies and prepare for implementation. The following tools are designed to help you develop and implement Essential Caregivers in your setting, as well as communicate your decision as to whether you will proceed with this new designation or delay implementing it.

TOOLS FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

[MDH Guidance on Essential Caregivers](#)

[Pre-Planning Checklist](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Resident/Family Letter – Evaluating the Guidance](#)

PLANNING TO IMPLEMENT

[Policies & Protocols](#)

[Planning Checklist](#)

[Statement and Key Messages](#)

[Sample Resident/Family Letter – Planning to Implement](#)

[Sample Staff Message – Planning to Implement](#)

[Risk Acknowledgement Form & Instructions](#)

Prevention & Infection Control Resources: [CDC Print Resources](#) and [MDH Resources](#)

Posters and Other Materials:

[CDC Stop the Spread Poster](#)

[CDC Prevention Tips Poster](#)

[YouTube links videos](#)

[MDH Basics Poster](#)

[MDH Handwashing Poster](#)

[MDH Handwash-don't forget](#)

[Prevent Basics](#)

DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION

[Statement and Key Messages – Delay in Implementation](#)

[Sample Resident/Family Letter – Delay in Implementation](#)

[Sample Staff Message – Delay in Implementation](#)

Note: The information used develop this toolkit is up-to-date as of July 16, 2020. We will continue to update these resources as new information is received.