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REOPENING GUIDANCE FOR GROUP HOMES SUPPORTING ELEVEN OR MORE PEOPLE PER SITE

FROM: Valerie Huhn, Division Director 

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Pandemic Reopening Guidance for Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) Contracted Agencies providing Group Home services to eleven or more individuals

Missouri has seen severe consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic, which has caused many facility-wide outbreaks in the state with accompanying high morbidity and mortality. The inherent vulnerability of the people living in a congregate healthcare setting demands heightened and sustained efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within facilities. Based on recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the state has developed guidance on how to safely and carefully ease restrictions in long-term care facilities. This guidance is intended for all long-term care facilities, including residential care, assisted living, intermediate care, and skilled nursing. The Division's Medicaid Waiver service providers of residential care, serving eleven or more people, are required to meet the [Missouri Guidance on Reopening of Long-Term Care Facilities](#), unless the location is designated a Semi-Independent Living Center.

Although there has been a decrease in large group homes since the implementation of the Home and Community Based Services federal rule and the Division incentives to decrease or close these settings, nineteen locations continue to support eleven or more individuals. If a provider accepts referrals increasing their size to eleven or more, they will be required to comply with this guidance.

Region	# of Impacted Providers	# of Group Homes
Central	3	3
Kansas City	1	2
Poplar Bluff	1	1
Rolla	1	1
Sikeston	1	1
St. Louis County	2	4
St. Louis Tri-County	3	5
Springfield	1	1

Applicable providers will submit data reflecting current status and compliance to the Division on the first and fifteenth of the month in a format developed by the Division. Provider Relations will contact impacted providers to confirm their current status. The Integrated Quality Management Functions (IQFMD), which includes Support Coordination, Provider Relations, Quality Assurance, Office of License and Certification, and Targeted Case Management, shall verify implementation through entry in the IQFMD database which may result in provider status per Division Directive 4.080 Integrating Quality Functions.