



## Resuming In-Person Services Q&A

### 1. How long does CDA anticipate having relaxed nutritional guidelines?

- No end date has been determined yet. Refer to CDA's Updated Guidance for Resuming In-Person Service Delivery of the Older Americans Act Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic - Appendix A of PM 21-10: Title IIIC Nutrition Programs.  
*"The reversing of the program flexibilities will be tied to the ending of the Major Disaster Declaration (MDD). Program flexibilities should continue no more than six months after the Major Disaster Declaration (MDD) ends. CDA will inform the AAA's once the MDD ends and the six-month transition period to reverse the flexibilities begins. Note that the following program flexibilities have been granted at the federal level and are therefore outside of the scope of CDA authority:*
  - *Offering pick-up or to-go meals for congregate meal participants beyond the transition period to in-person congregate meal services.*
  - *The waiver of the requirement to follow the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) and provide one-third of the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRI) in meals using OAA funds.*

*Adjustments to these flexibilities will be determined by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). CDA will notify the AAAs when guidance regarding these flexibilities is provided by ACL."*

### 2. Will we still be allowed to have Grab-n-Go meals for Congregate participants who are hesitant to dine in? If so, how long does CDA anticipate allowing the distribution of Grab-n-Go meals?

- Yes, we are still allowed to distribute Grab-n-Go meals 6 months after the end of the MDD. Refer to response above.

### 3. Does CDA have guidance on how to address participants who do not wish to adhere to health and safety protocols upon resuming in-person services? *For example: participants who refuse to wear a mask inside a Congregate Meal site while receiving services. Can we ask them to leave?*

- It is recommended that local providers and hosting sites consult with their own legal counsel for guidance. For free training videos on how to handle situations like mentioned above, visit ServSafe COVID19 Precautions videos.

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<sup>1</sup> AAA – Area Agency on Aging: The Office on Aging is the designated AAA for Orange County since 1974. As the local AAA, the Office on Aging is mandated by Federal law to be the lead advocate, system planner, and facilitator of services for older adults, persons with disabilities, and family caregivers.

4. **Will seniors, volunteers, and staff be required to be vaccinated to participate in dine-in and/or work at a senior center?**
  - It is recommended that local providers and hosting sites consult their own legal counsel for guidance. Congregate participants should not be denied a meal, if dining in is not possible the participant should be offered a Grab-n-Go meal. In addition, participants who have not received vaccinations should be referred to a nearby vaccination site and/or Othena.com.
5. **Governor Newsom announced the possibility of fully reopening the State on June 15th. If it is announced that we are fully opened and there are no more tiers, will we be asked to follow a specific tier's guidelines and safety protocols?**
  - It is recommended that risk reduction measures should be continued. Protocols will remain in place until adjusted or discontinued per state and/or local public health guidance. *Common sense health and safety practices should always be practiced.*
6. **If sites choose to have a policy that requires proof of vaccine, can they be permitted to allow multiple households to dine together at the same table?**
  - It is recommended that hosting sites consult with their own legal counsel for protocol on vaccination proof and visit the CDC website for protocols on multiple household sitting.
7. **What to do if we are informed that a participant who participated in the in-person dining program tests positive for COVID in terms of notification requirements?**
  - Protocols for this scenario will be up to the site. Please refer to CDC – COVID19 Contact Tracing for best practices.
8. **Would it be permissible to restrict in-person (congregate) dining to only allow seniors that are vaccinated against COVID-19?**
  - We recommend consulting with your legal counsel for guidance. Congregate participants should not be denied a meal, if dining in is not possible the participant should be offered a Grab-n-Go meal. In addition, participants who have not received vaccinations should be referred to a nearby vaccination site and/or Othena.com.

**Inquiries:**

- For questions related to this guidance and or Office on Aging programs please submit to: **OoACovid19Questions@occr.ocgov.com**
- For information and resources on COVID19, testing, and vaccines please visit: **<https://occcovid19.ochealthinfo.com>**
- For general COVID19 questions, call the **COVID-19 Hotline: (714) 834-2000**
- For medical questions, call the **Health Referral Line: (800) 564-8448**

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