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DATE: June 20, 2022 **NUMBER:** IM 2022-7, I-7

TYPE: Information Memorandum **SUPERSEDES:** IM 2021-4, I-4

SUBJECT: Congregate Nutrition Update **DISTRIBUTION CODE:** I

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

APPLICABILITY: AAA Executive Directors, AAA/ADRCs, and their Providers

BACKGROUND:
Guidance issued June 24, 2021, and shared via IM 2021-4, I-4, listed the best practices at that time related to reopening of congregate nutrition sites. In that guidance document, based on New Jersey's broader re-opening, the Division advised that congregate nutrition services may resume. Many sites have since reopened or are planning to do so shortly. In addition, on March 4, 2022, Governor Philip Murphy signed Executive Order No. 292 lifting the COVID-19 public health emergency

INFORMATION:
Following the success of New Jersey's vaccination efforts, the incidence of COVID-19 in our communities has significantly decreased. Therefore, the strict infection control recommendations made by Information Memorandum 2021-4, I-4 for Congregate Nutrition Services reopening are hereby rescinded. Program providers are now strongly recommended to follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State, and local health guidance related to screening for COVID-19 symptoms, hand hygiene, masking, social distancing, quarantine and isolation, as well as specific precautions for dining, communal activity, transportation, and similar congregate activities. The Department reserves right to update these recommendations at any time in response to changing public health conditions.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its Use and Care of Mask guidance (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html). This includes direction on when masking is to occur. In all cases where masking is required, it should not create a risk to workplace health, safety or job duty as assessed by the employer.

In addition, providers are encouraged to follow policies set by their agency, governing body, and notify and seek guidance from their local health department regarding identified positive cases and suspected outbreaks of COVID-19 among staff and/or participants.

Please direct questions related to this guidance to Patricia Matthews at patricia.matthews@dhs.nj.gov.

Dennis McGowan, Program Manager
Area Agency on Aging Administration

DM/PM