



March 23, 2020

Dear leaders of Ohio's Senior Centers and Adult Day Centers,

In the past several weeks, attention has been focused on our population of older Ohioans and the risks posed by Coronavirus (COVID-19). On Monday, March 23, 2020 at the close of business, Ohio's senior centers and adult day centers are closing as a preventive measure during this COVID-19 emergency. We know that you are working with families to make the necessary alternate arrangements to continue to provide home-delivered meals and non-congregate services to the people you serve.

In the coming weeks, we also know that the need for meals and care of our older Ohioans will only increase in the community. Your facility's closure means that your leadership and resources will be needed more than ever before. We encourage you to contact your local officials to put your expertise to work. And, if you're not already doing so, please reach out to your aging network partners to expedite and maximize the coordination of services in your community. Not only are services needed for those you traditionally serve, we now have older adults who, for the first time, will rely on us to meet their needs until this disease is controlled.

In addition to those you serve, we also know that you're concerned about your employees and about the stability of your organization. We have created a *Senior Center and Adult Day Center COVID-19 Checklist* that will be posted on aging.ohio.gov/coronavirus. This checklist focuses on your clients and families, your employees, and your business. Due to government's continuing efforts to bring support and relief to businesses, we ask that you continue monitoring this checklist for updates as additional resources are announced. If you have questions, please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call Ohio's COVID-19 call center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or 1-833-427-5634.

We're confident that you understand and appreciate the difficult decisions that are being made. Even prior to the [Order](#) issued by the Ohio Department of Health, we heard of closures occurring for the safety of your clients. We know that your clients' health and well-being are your priority and concern, and we recognize the importance of your programs and what they mean in your community.

Thank you for your agility and leadership in the coming weeks. We will reflect upon this time with pride that we contributed to the good of our communities and to those who rely on us. We stand ready to support you however we can.

Sincerely,

Ursel J. McElroy
Director

Fostering sound public policy, research, and initiatives that benefit older Ohioans.