

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont
Governor
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Lt. Governor

HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH

BLAST FAX 2021-17E

TO: Nursing Homes, Home Health Agencies, Homemaker-Home Health Aide Agencies, Assisted Living Service Agencies, Hospice Care Agencies, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), Chronic Disease Hospitals, and Residential Care Homes

FROM: Acting Commissioner Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH

CC: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA
Adelita Orefice, MPM, JD, CHC, Chief of Staff
Barbara Cass, RN., Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch
Donna Ortelle, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section
Patricia Trella, Health Program Associate, Office of Legal Compliance

DATE: July 12, 2021

SUBJECT: MANDATORY Official Inquiry regarding Employment of 7K Workers (Workers hired from March 23, 2020 through May 19, 2021)

For purposes of this correspondence, the term "7K Workers" mean employees, persons under contract or volunteers who have direct access to patients, residents, or individuals hired from March 23, 2020 through May 19, 2021 under Executive Order (EO) 7K.

As the Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to plan regarding the expiration of Executive Order 7K on July 20, 2021, it is critical that you respond to this inquiry. The survey conducted on July 8, 2021 had a 30% response rate which is not significant as we move forward with decision making for next steps. Your responses will help inform decision making regarding EO 7K and it is expected that all 611 registered long term facilities will respond. **The responses from last week will not be incorporated into these responses. Consequently, if you responded last week, you must respond again.** For those that do not respond, telephone calls and/or on site



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visits will be made to collect the information. Therefore it is essential that you respond to this survey. As a result, *this correspondence constitutes an official inquiry under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-498* regarding compliance with State of Connecticut's General Statute Section 19a-491c.

Please respond to this inquiry immediately and not later than 12:00PM on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 by accessing the link to the Survey Monkey below with your organization's responses to the following four questions:

1. How many 7K Workers are currently employed, under contract or volunteering at your facility?
2. How many of your 7K Workers have been fingerprinted as of July 11, 2021?
3. How many of your 7K Workers have appointments to be fingerprinted by July 20, 2021?
4. How many of your 7K Workers will not be fingerprinted by July 20, 2021?
5. What is your staffing plan when you need to separate/terminate your 7K Worker who has not been fingerprinted by July 20, 2021?

Please see the link below to respond to the survey. Your responses are critical as we plan moving forward.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9J69V9F>

7K Workers who are not fingerprinted by July 20th cannot continue to be employed, under contract or be retained as a volunteer by your organization.

7K Workers who are fingerprinted before July 20th but awaiting results can be hired under provisional status in accordance with section 19a-491c(f)(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes. The statute requires such individuals to be **subject to direct, on-site supervision** during the course of such provisional employment or contractual or volunteer period.

When Executive Order 7K expires on July 20, 2021, DPH will investigate if you have unfingerprinted 7K Workers at your organization. You may face an enforcement action if your organization is not in compliance with the statute.

Through Tuesday, July 20th, Connecticut State Police are providing an increase in appointments to meet the fingerprinting needs of 7K Workers. Appointments for fingerprinting should be made immediately through online scheduling at https://biglink.to/DPH_ABCMS_Fingerprinting. Connecticut State Troop locations* are open for fingerprinting services for 7K Workers and new applicants.

For general information relating to your responsibilities under Section 19a-491c, please visit the DPH's website at www.ct.gov/dph/ABCMS. DPH strongly encourages you to watch the posted webinar, "ABCMS: Updates and Q & A", focused on 7K Workers. The session can be viewed from the "Help" section of the ABCMS portal or from DPH's public-facing website at www.ct.gov/dph/ABCMS. For questions, please contact the ABCMS Program by email at dph.ABCMS@ct.gov or at (860) 509-8366.

Thank you for any consideration that you give to this request.

* Connecticut State Police Troops - *Note: 800 numbers are only accessible within CT.*

TROOP A - Southbury

90 Lakeside Road
Southbury, CT 06488
(800) 376-1554
(203) 267-2200

TROOP F - Westbrook

315 Spencer Plains Road
Westbrook, CT 06498
(800) 256-5761(860) 399-2100

TROOP B - Canaan

Route 7, 463 Ashley Falls Road
North Canaan, CT 06018
(800) 497-0403
(860) 626-1820

TROOP H - Hartford

100R Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106
(800) 968-0664
(860) 534-1000

TROOP G - Bridgeport

149 Prospect Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604
(800) 575-6330
(203) 696-2500

TROOP K - Colchester

15A Old Hartford Road
Colchester, CT 06415
(800) 546-5005

(860) 465-5400

TROOP L - Litchfield

452A Bantam Road
Litchfield, CT 06759
(800) 953-9949
(860) 626-7900

TROOP I - Bethany

631 Amity Road
Bethany, CT 06525
(800) 956-8818
(203) 393-4200

TROOP C - Tolland

1320 Tolland Stage
Tolland, CT 06084
(800) 318-7633
(860) 896-3200

TROOP D - Danielson

55 Westcott Road
Danielson, CT 06239
(800) 954-8828
(860) 779-4900

TROOP E – MONTVILLE

I-395 North (between exits 79 & 79a)
Uncasville, CT 06335
(800) 953-7747
(860) 848-6500