



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

To: Grocery Store Retailers

From: Aliya Jones, M.D., MBA, Deputy Secretary

Behavioral Health Administration

Bernard Simons, Deputy Secretary

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Re: COVID-19: Group Homes Purchasing Over the Limit

Date: May 6, 2020

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you as a Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) community stakeholder and Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) community stakeholder in response to the health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic as it pertains to individuals with behavioral health and individuals with developmental disabilities. On March 23, 2020, the Governor amended and restated in the executive order of March 19, that group homes are essential as a federal critical infrastructure sector.

The Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administrations contracts with group homes, recovery residences and residential rehabilitation programs to offer a therapeutic and/or supportive living environment for individuals with behavioral health and developmental disabilities. Therefore, they must remain open since these individuals reside 24/7 in these homes. Their family-like units are beyond the normal occupancy numbers of household residents and would have a greater need for essential supplies as it pertains to health and safety while purchasing a generous amount of food or other items for the individuals in their care. Each home has direct care support professionals and staff with various job titles, as well as a program manager.

Upon entry to your store, these professional staff will be able to produce appropriate identification and nonprofit status information to validate their need for multiple quantities of food and other essential supplies above the maximum limit that your store has identified for members of the public, such as milk, eggs, bread, meats, toilet tissue and cleaning supplies, etc. to provide adequate nutrition and hygiene products for all individuals with behavioral health and developmental disabilities residing in their homes. **The Maryland Department of Health thanks you in advance for allowing the holder of this memo to purchase above the normal limit.**

Thank you for your support in this effort. If you have any further questions or wish to verify further, you can contact BHA Chief of Staff Stephanie Slowly at 410-402-8443 or by email at stephanie.slowly1@maryland.gov and DDA Chief of Staff Tonia Ferguson at 410-844-1146 or by email at tonia.ferguson@maryland.gov.