

The Gill Montague Council on Aging is currently providing the following services

Regular telephone checks with seniors using contacts from TRIAD, Western Mass Food Bank participants, and regular Gill Montague Council on Aging Senior Center participants

Management of three food distribution services: Brown Bag and Mobile Food Pantry (Western Mass Food Bank, both monthly) and the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (USDA quarterly)

Coordinating volunteer grocery shoppers for seniors who are unable to shop (support from Food City)

Small services including book, puzzle, craft supplies delivery, etc.

Information and referrals regarding Medicare, Social Security, Fuel Assistance, wood bank access, transportation, veterinary services, census completion, durable medical equipment loan, veterans' services, technical support, etc.

Working with CISA to set up and administer a summer Senior Farm Share with Red Fire Farm

Considerations for reopening the Senior Center

It appears that The Senior Center would fall into phase four of the Governor's opening plan with the following caveats. Our visitors and service demographic are nearly all over 65 and hence considered more vulnerable to severe illness (CDC). **In all phases of the reopening, including stage four "the new normal" the state guidelines indicate that vulnerable populations should continue social distancing.**

Even within stage four barriers to reopening the Senior Center are significant. Our floor space would permit fewer than ten people at six feet apart and our only adequate ventilation option would be to keep our doors open. At this point, stage four looks like this

- Aerobics class: indefinitely on hold
- Chair Exercise: social distance, maximum attendance, pre-register in stage 4
- Bingo, Card games, Craft groups, Writing Group: indefinitely on hold. Bongo and cards are face to face activities; craft and writing groups could be arranged on a limited basis
- Foot Clinic: *possible* resumption in stage four with cautions and social distance. Services are provided by a contract nail technician
- Food Distribution programs: outdoor distribution and limited delivery continues
- Chair Yoga: social distance, maximum attendance, pre-register in stage 4
- Drop Ins: limited hours, social distance, maximum capacity 10
- Meal and coffee service: indefinitely on hold
- Information and referral services: Monday through Thursday 10 am to 2 pm. This constitutes a reduction in hours
- All participants will sign in with contact information to enable BOH contact tracing if necessary
- Liability may continue to be an issue.
- Temperature monitoring, health questionnaire, etc. may need to be implemented. Masks will be required and maximum capacity will be implemented. We will provide masks as needed and will install sanitizing stations at both doors
- In addition to following the state guidelines, I am following best practices from the Massachusetts Council on Aging and will hope for advice from our own BOH.