



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Charles D. Baker, Governor ♦ Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor ♦ Jennifer D. Maddox, Undersecretary

**PHN 2020-12
Addendum #1**

To: Local Housing Authority (LHA) Executive Directors
From: Ben Stone, Associate Director, Division of Public Housing
Subject: Addendum #1: Clarification on Guest Policy
Date: April 7, 2020

Addendum #1

Clarification on Guest Policy

DHCD has received several questions on the below passage from [PHN 2020-12](#) urging LHAs to show lenience on tenants allowing temporary guests.

“During the state of emergency DHCD also urges LHAs to show reasonable lenience to tenants who allow non-leaseholder friends or family to temporarily reside in their unit as overnight guests, as well as tenants who take extended absences from assisted units, where such actions will not harm LHAs or other residents.”

This addendum clarifies DHCD’s intention and gives additional guidance to LHAs. DHCD’s intention is to encourage safe sheltering in place during this pandemic. To that end LHAs should:

1. Show reasonable lenience to any tenant who is currently allowing non-household member friends or family to temporarily stay in their unit as guests ; LHAs should generally not to seek to remove *current* guests so as to avoid overburdening the shelter system.
2. With rates of COVID-19 increasing in general community, LHAs should *strongly discourage new* overnight guests in public housing units, with particular attention to guests whose presence will overcrowd a family unit or any additional visitors in c.667 elderly developments, due to their vulnerable population. In general, as stated in PHN 2020-11 and PHN 2020-13, LHAs should be taking steps to discourage visitors and general traffic through public housing developments during the COVID-19 pandemic.