

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING

IN THE MATTER OF: KRISTINE A PACHECO
LICENSEE NO.: NHA01198
COMPLAINT ID #: C24-0871

SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATOR LICENSE

Kristine A. Pacheco (“Respondent”) has been licensed as a Nursing Home Administrator pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-45-1 *et seq.* since April 15, 2022. Complaint ID #C24-0871 (the “Complaint”) recently came before the Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Healthcare Quality and Safety, Center for Professional Boards and Licensing (“RIDOH”) alleging that Respondent had engaged in behavior that constituted “gross unprofessional conduct” against her Nursing Home Administrator license pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-45-1 *et seq.* This Summary Suspension is issued related to the Complaint and pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-45-12 and 42-35-14(c). After careful consideration and further investigation by RIDOH, the following constitute the findings of fact and conclusions of law with respect to the allegations against Respondent in the Complaint:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

That Respondent is a Nursing Home Administrator licensed to practice in the State of Rhode Island under License Number NHA01198 (the “License”).

That on or about July 20, 2024, the Respondent directed an employee (“Employee A”) that she supervised at a nursing home, to prepare meals for residents without supervision or training on multiple occasions. Employee A prepared meals on July 20, August 3, and August 4.

Employee A was not properly trained, certified, or licensed to do such work.

This direction violated R.I. Food Code, 2018 edition, sec. 2-101.12 and 2-102.20, potentially exposing residents to various food-borne illnesses and other hazards.

That on or about Wednesday, July 31, 2024, Employee A tested positive for COVID-19 while at work and was instructed by the Infection Control Preventionist for the facility to leave work and not return until the following Wednesday.

The Respondent directed Employee A to return to work cooking in the kitchen on Saturday, August 3, 2024 and Sunday, August 4, 2024, prior to the end of her required seven (7) day COVID-19 isolation period. Employee A returned to work on August 3 and August 4.

On August 8, 2024, 13 residents of the nursing home tested positive for COVID-19.

That the RIDOH director (the "Director of Health") has reviewed the facts and conclusions in this case and finds that public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing and pursuant to R. I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-45-12, the License is hereby SUSPENDED until further Order of RIDOH.

A written request for hearing may be filed with the Director of Health within ten days after service of this Suspension. If a hearing is requested and held, an Administrative Hearing Officer shall preside over such hearing. As a result of the hearing, discipline may be imposed on the License (for example, it may be suspended or revoked), or no discipline may be imposed on the License.

Ordered this 16 day of August, 2024

Stacia A. Inoué, MD
Jerome Larkin, M.D.

Director of Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
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— delegated authority
for Director Larkin