

Question: Are home-delivered meal volunteers considered essential personnel if a mandatory shelter in place order is given?

Answer: The following is the SCDOA position unless additional instructions or guidance is provided by federal or state authorities later. The delivery of meals is essential, whether staff or volunteers are utilized, as the AAA has made assurances that services will continue during an emergency. The Department on Aging has previously stated that during the emergency meals can be left safely on a porch or near a door as long as the senior knows the meal was left. When a meal is left on a porch, the driver should knock on a door or window (or call the senior) so the senior knows the meal was left. In addition, the SCDOA highly recommends that the meal be left on a chair or table if possible so the senior does not have to bend over unnecessarily.