



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600

September 10, 2020

AL TSA: AFH #2020-041
AL TSA: ALF #2020-041
AL TSA: CCRSS #2020-032
AL TSA: ESF #2020-031

CHANGES TO SAFE START FOR LONG TERM CARE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Dear Provider / Administrator:

In response to requests for recommendations for limiting COVID-19 exposure in long-term care settings, the Department of Health and Department of Social and Health Services published the [Safe Start for Long Term Care Recommendations and Requirements: Adult Family Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Enhanced Services Facilities](#) and [Safe Start Recommendations and Requirements: Certified Community Residential Services and Support](#) (recommendations and requirements). Since the initial publication of the recommendations and requirements, there have been two changes made to the document. One change is related to medically and non-medically necessary trips during Phase 1 for Adult Family Homes (AFH), Assisted Living Facilities (ALF), Enhanced Services Facilities (ESF); and Certified Community Residential Services and Support (CCRSS); and another change is related to Adult Family Home (AFH) group activities during Phases 2 and 3. This letter also clarifies recommendations and requirements related to outdoor visits at homes and facilities that have a staff or resident test positive for COVID-19.

AFH, ALF, ESF, CCRSS: Phase 1 Changes

Originally, providers and administrators were instructed to quarantine residents who left the home or facility for medically and non-medically necessary trips for 14 days and work with the local health jurisdiction. This created conflicting recommendations and requirements for homes and facilities located in Phase 3 counties. As a result, the recommendations and requirements have been updated to instruct administrators and providers to observe residents for 14 days after returning to the home or facility, conduct a risk assessment, and consult with the local health jurisdiction on the need for a 14-day quarantine for trips determined to be at medium to high risk. These changes provide consistency for homes and facilities within the recommendations and requirements for Phases 1 through 3.

AFH: Phases 2 and 3 Changes

Originally, the recommendations and requirements allowed for group activities for no more than 2 people. The question that arose was whether these 2 people included a staff person. The

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recommendations and requirements have been updated to clearly show group activities allow for 2 residents and 1 staff.

AFH, ALF, ESF: Outdoor Visits Clarification

A home or facility may continue outdoor visits in any phase when a single resident or staff tests positive for COVID-19. Outdoor visits must be conducted consistent with the recommendations and requirements. Providers and administrators may continue outdoor visits unless there is evidence of transmission with an increasing number of residents, staff, or both showing symptoms of COVID-19 or testing positive for COVID-19; or if the local health jurisdiction directs the provider or administrator to end visitation.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*