STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
PO Box 45600 Olympia, WA 98504-5600

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CLARIFICATION ON INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL GUIDANCE IN LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent:

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recently updated their COVID-19 personal protective equipment recommendations for healthcare personnel and Interim Return to Work Guidance for Healthcare Personnel with COVID-19, Influenza, RSV, and Other Acute Viral Respiratory Infections. Residential Care Services (RCS) is issuing this letter to clarify regulatory expectations regarding infection prevention and control practices (IPC) across all long-term care (LTC) settings in Washington state.

We want to take this opportunity to clarify that from a regulatory standpoint, all LTC settings – including adult family homes, assisted living facilities, certified community residential services and supports facilities, enhanced services facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, and nursing homes - are expected to follow nationally recognized standards for IPC. This is interpreted to mean CDC guidance.

We recognize that there are ongoing structural changes taking place at the federal level. However, the CDC's core guidance on IPC in healthcare settings has not changed. RCS will continue to monitor updates at the national level and provide clarification as needed. We encourage all providers to regularly review CDC's IPC resources.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the safety and well-being of those in your care. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Ford, IPC Specialist at jamie.ford1@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*

Resources:

- RCS Infection Prevention and Control
- CDC Standard Precautions
- CDC Transmission Based Precautions

- CDC Type and Duration of Precautions Recommended for Selected Infections and Conditions