STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

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Infection Prevention Reminders During FIFA World Cup Activities in Washington State

Dear Provider/ Administrator,

Washington state will host six FIFA World Cup matches in Seattle between June 15 and July 6, 2026. In addition to the matches, nine designated official fan zones will operate across the state and are expected to bring increased travel, large gatherings, and higher population movement throughout Washington.

Large public events can increase the spread of respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, including COVID-19, influenza, norovirus, and other communicable diseases. Long-term care providers play an important role in protecting vulnerable residents while supporting healthcare system capacity during periods of increased community activity.

Residential Care Services (RCS) is encouraging providers to review and reinforce infection prevention and control practices in preparation for the event period.

Key reminders for providers include:

- Encouraging staff to stay home when ill, particularly when experiencing symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal illness.
- Reinforce hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and cleaning / disinfection practices with staff, residents, volunteers, and visitors.
- Review sick leave and return-to-work practices to help reduce workplace transmission.
- Ensure staff remain familiar with current transmission-based precautions and personal protective equipment (PPE) practices.
- Review facility outbreak response plans and ensure supplies such as PPE, hand hygiene products, and cleaning materials are adequately stocked.
- Encourage staff to consider the increased exposure risks associated with large gatherings, travel, and fan events.
- Continue monitoring residents for signs and symptoms of communicable illness and promptly implement appropriate infection prevention measures when concerns are identified.
- Maintain communication with local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and healthcare partners as needed regarding outbreaks or significant infectious disease concerns.

During periods of increased healthcare system demand, timely and appropriate admissions, transfers, and discharges between hospitals and long-term care settings are especially important in helping maintain hospital capacity and continuity of care for patients and residents across the healthcare system.

Providers should continue following nationally recognized infection prevention and control standards. Thank you for your continued efforts to protect residents, staff, and communities across Washington state.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services
DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*