



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

April 3, 2020

ALTA: ALF #2020-012
EMERGENCY RULES SUSPENDING TB TESTING

Dear Assisted Living Facility Administrator:

The Department of Social and Health Services filed an [emergency rule](#) effective April 2, 2020 to suspend requirements related to tuberculosis (TB) testing in WACs 388-78A-2480(1), -2485(1), and -2484. These rules are suspended in response to the significant threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations, especially for those receiving long-term care services in their homes and congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities.

Currently clinics providing TB testing are short of staff and are only providing critical and emergent medical services. These clinics are unable to provide the TB testing required as a part of the hiring process in many long-term care programs. These emergency rules are intended to help meet the demand for long-term care workers in Washington State.

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

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