



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

May 29, 2020

ALTSA: ICF/IID #2020-019
LIFE SAFETY CODE WAIVERS AND GOVERNOR PROCLAMATIONS

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent:

The purpose of this letter is to provide information regarding additional blanket waivers recently announced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under section 1135 of the Social Security Act. Additionally, Governor Jay Inslee issued a proclamation, 20-52.1, which extended the effective dates of a number of other proclamations.

Blanket Waivers

On May 11, 2020, CMS announced the release of information about [new waivers](#) granted through section 1135 of the Social Security Act. CMS added further flexibilities and modified particular waivers under 42 CFR §483.470(j) for ICF/IIDs. The following Blanket Waivers are in effect with a retroactive effective date of March 1, 2020 through the end of the federal emergency declaration:

- Inspection, testing, and maintenance of facility and medical equipment may be deferred in some cases.
- Alcohol Based Hand Rub placement was made less prescriptive however storage for Client safety is outlined.
- Fire drills may be suspended to avoid congregation of staff or residents.
- Construction of temporary wall and barriers that otherwise would not be permitted may be permitted under some circumstances.

Please refer to [Life Safety Code & Health Care Facilities Requirements](#) and [NFPA-101-Life-Safety-Code-2012](#) for details.

With Proclamation [20-52.1](#), Governor Inslee recognized the extension of statutory waivers and suspensions by the leadership of the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives. As a result, the following proclamations are in effect until May 31, 2020:

- 20-05: Declaration of the COVID-19 emergency
- 20-06: Restriction of visitors and screening of anyone entering a Long-Term Care Facility
- 20-10: Amends 20-05 and 20-06
- 20-16: Increased restriction on visitation
- 20-17: Visitor prohibition to Evaluation and Treatment Facilities and Residential Treatment Facilities
- 20-18: Suspended surveys, waived minimum direct care staffing requirements

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Shana Privett, ICF/IID Policy Program Manager at 360-764-6320 or Shana.privett@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"