



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

April 9, 2021

AL TSA: NH #2021-029
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-018

**QSO-21-15-ALL UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - APPENDIX Z
OF THE STATE OPERATIONS MANUAL**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home or ICF/IID Administrator:

On June 3, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published Appendix Z of the State Operations Manual (SOM), which provides guidance to all surveyors for the 17 providers and supplier types affected by the Emergency Preparedness rules. In February 2019, CMS added emerging infectious diseases to the definition of all-hazards approach. In September 2019, CMS published two final rules that were effective November 29, 2019.

In light of the COVID-19 public health emergency and the updated rules, with [QSO-21-15-ALL](#), CMS announced revisions to Appendix Z, and expanded the Interpretive Guidelines to incorporate lessons learned from the public health emergency and the new rules. The changes to Appendix Z are at the bottom of the QSO memo. As of this letter, CMS had not yet updated Appendix Z at their website.

The revised guidance is primarily a result of burden reduction rules, and adjusts cycles of updates, and changes to the training and testing requirements. CMS also updated many other requirements that listed in the QSO memo and the attached Appendix Z document.

The updated rules and guidance are effective immediately. If there are questions about the updated rules or guidance, please contact QSOG_EmergencyPrep@cms.hhs.gov.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any other questions, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (509) 209-3088 or lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov, or Debra Hoeman, ICF/IID Policy Program Manager, at (360) 725-3210 or debra.hoeman@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"