



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

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ALTSA: ALF #2020-033
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ALTSA: CCRSS #2020-025

N95 FIT TESTING AND FACILITY ONLINE SURVEYS

Dear Provider/Superintendent/Administrator:

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to your clients and residents, and thank you for the tremendous efforts you have made during these last few months to mitigate the spread of the COVID virus in our long-term care community. As Washington State begins moving through the phased reopening under the “Safe Start Washington” plan, and begins planning for influenza season and potential resurgence of COVID-19, strongly consider the following.

Fit testing

We encourage you to have staff fit tested for respirator masks (N95) as soon as possible. This will ensure that if a situation occurs, such as a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your facility, your staff are ready to don the N95 masks and wear them in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. This will remove any delay associated with staff fit testing in the event of a crisis.

There are multiple fit testing options available including:

- Occupational health clinics and some urgent care clinics perform fit testing.
- Fire stations may have staff who are qualified to fit test and could volunteer to do this. In a rural community with smaller facilities, they may be willing to do this.
- Nursing homes connected with a hospital system have staff who are qualified to perform fit testing.
- A facility can get their own staff qualified to perform fit testing.

Online Survey

We are again asking you to visit the COVID-19 Facility Survey [website](#) twice weekly, on Monday and Thursday by midnight, to update the COVID status of your residents and clients, staff numbers, census, and COVID-19 test kit training needs. This should only take a few minutes to complete and will be extremely valuable for us and for you to promote the health of your residents, clients, and staff by informing us about the resource needs of your facilities and agencies. Keep in mind that providing this information will not guarantee you will receive personal protective equipment (PPE) from DSHS, but will be used to better inform us and other public health partners about the need for PPE in a location. This critical information will assist us in understanding the burn rate for PPE and assess the ongoing PPE needs for our providers, which in turn will help us better prepare for a potential resurgence of COVID-19 and the upcoming influenza season.

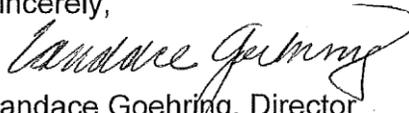
Prior to entering COVID-19 data, you MUST enter the following information found on your license or certification issued by the Department of Social and Health Services:

- The facility or agency type;
- The facility license number or agency certification number; and
- The most recent date the license or certification was issued.

Once that information has been validated, you can proceed to enter your COVID-19 data. Note that if you have previously entered COVID-19 data into the tool, that data will be automatically displayed. Instructions for using this tool are available [here](#).

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

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*