



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

October 9, 2020  
**Amended November 13, 2020**

AL TSA: NH #2020-074  
AL TSA: AFH #2020-051  
AL TSA: ALF #2020-049  
AL TSA: CCRSS #2020-036  
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-039  
AL TSA: ESF #2020-038

**POSTPONED: RCS REIMPLEMENTATION OF INSPECTION AND INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES**

Dear Administrator, Superintendent, Provider, or Stakeholder:

**This letter is amended to provide notification that full Reimplementation of Inspection and Investigation for Residential Care Services is postponed indefinitely.** RCS will be assessing COVID status on a week-to-week basis to determine the most appropriate time to move forward. In the meantime, RCS will continue to provide focused infection control inspections and investigations as well as immediate jeopardy (2 day) investigations and other intake investigations for serious allegation of substandard care or services.

On February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee declared a state of emergency for Washington State related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Since then, the Governor issued a number of proclamations suspending certain inspections and investigations for residential and long-term care settings regulated by Residential Care Services (RCS).

For nursing homes and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) suspended certain complaint investigations and all recertification surveys.

The [Reimplementation of Inspection and Investigation Activity for Residential Care Services document](#) dated November 1, 2020 is available on-line for reference when full regulatory activities resume. Reimplementation activities include re-implementing investigations, re-certification surveys, and other field work, including the work of the Case Mix, Residential Inspection and Quality Assurance (RIQA), Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Consultation, and Training programs.

RCS field staff have been provided guidance that includes:

- Use of Personal Protective Equipment and hand sanitizers, cleaning computers and other protective measures when entering a facility, and
- Staff support measures and resources.

Providers are encouraged to review these Reimplementation of Inspection and Investigation Activity for Residential Care Services and to work with RCS staff during visits to ensure resident and staff safety. Some additional items that may assist RCS staff:

- For settings with more residents and larger spaces, a conference room sized to accommodate social distancing for multiple RCS staff and for interviews with facility staff or residents.

- For settings with fewer residents and smaller spaces, such as the adult family home setting, a work space for RCS staff apart from residents and facility staff.
- Prompt access to records will help minimize RCS staff time in the facility or home.

Please note the information provided to staff is guidance only. RCS field staff and management will evaluate each situation to determine the safest way to complete the investigation or inspection assignment.

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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