



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

November 6, 2020

AL TSA: ALF #2020-052
AL TSA: AFH #2020-054
AL TSA: CCRSS #2020-040
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-042
AL TSA: ESF #2020-041
AL TSA: NH #2020-080

EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER HEALTH PRACTITIONERS BACKGROUND CHECKS

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent:

This provider letter is intended to serve as a reminder and to supplement information for providers regarding potential staffing resources available, as issued in a [provider letter dated April 9, 2020](#), concerning the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, Chapter 70.15 RCW and procedures for background checks related to these volunteer health practitioners.

In 2018, the Legislature passed Chapter 70.15 RCW, Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act. The program was implemented for the first time in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Health website about the program can be found at:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/EmergencyVolunteerHealthPractitioners>

A few highlights include:

1. Individual health practitioner applicants now register online, instead of using a paper application.
2. New information for health care facilities, including long-term care facilities:
 - a. Facilities who want to request approved volunteers, or want to request to activate specific staff under this program as part of their own surge planning, need to complete a health care facilities request form. This information is necessary to quickly support each request.
 - b. The Department of Health currently has more than 700 approved volunteers who are eligible to be placed.
 - c. Facilities requesting to activate specific volunteers should complete the spreadsheet. Please be sure all fields are complete, as they are all required to complete the process. Please do not include any additional fields beyond information on additional licenses a volunteer has.

As this program also includes emergency volunteer health practitioners from out of state, we would like to remind providers of current processes for background checks. Those processes include:

- Per the governor's proclamations and subsequent extensions, fingerprint-based background checks continue to be waived at this time;

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- Providers are expected to complete Washington State Name and Date of Birth Background checks on these out-of-state emergency volunteer health practitioners, including a Character, Competency and Suitability Review if indicated on the background check result letter;
- Please consider the use of Background Check-Sharing by health care facilities in accordance with [RCW 43.43.832](#). This statute allows a health care facility, as defined in [RCW 43.43.830](#) as a Nursing Home, Assisted Living Facility, and Adult Family Home to share background check results with other health care facilities under certain circumstances. Those circumstances are outlined in RCW 43.43.832 as well as setting specific WACs regarding background checks.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident and client health and safety. If you have any questions regarding background checks, please contact Antonietta Lettieri-Parkin, Policy Program Manager, Antonietta.lettieri-parkin@dshs.wa.gov or 509-363-3549.

Sincerely,



Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"