



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

November 17, 2020

**AMENDED January 4, 2021**

**AL TSA: AFH #2020-063**  
**AL TSA: ALF #2020-057**  
**AL TSA: ESF #2020-046**  
**AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-047**  
**AL TSA: NH #2020-088**

**VISITATION RESTRICTIONS REQUIRED UNDER GOVERNOR PROCLAMATION 20-25**

Dear Administrator / Provider / Superintendent:

**This letter is amended to reflect the governor's latest proclamation 20-25 has been extended through January 11, 2021.**

In response to the increasing number of COVID cases across Washington State, Governor Inslee issued [Proclamation 20-25.9](#) on December 10, 2020. This proclamation suspends Long-Term Care (LTC) visitation requirements and social gatherings under the Safe Start for Long-Term Care Plans for four weeks. All other parts of the LTC Safe Start Plans remain in effect and can be found [here](#).

(Please note, information for Certified Community Residential Services and Support (CCRSS) will be released separately outlining the criteria applicable to CCRSS clients in the new proclamation.)

The following changes to the LTC Safe Start Plans take effect at 12:01 a.m., Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

- Indoor visits are suspended for all LTC settings except for end-of-life care and essential support persons. End-of-life circumstances are generally defined as a sharp decline in health status. For end-of-life circumstances, residents may have visitors. Facilities must coordinate visits with family and friends to ensure privacy and safety, and ensure infection control practices are utilized. For an essential support person, only one person may be designated as an essential support person, and that person must be designated by the long-term care resident or client, or their legal representative. **The visitor restrictions apply to all four phases at this time.** All other criteria to allow visitors, such as screening protocols and use of personal protective equipment (PPE), remain in effect for those visitations allowed under the new proclamation.
- Outdoor visits in Phase 1 facilities remain limited to 2 or fewer persons for each resident. Phase 2-4 facilities may conduct outdoor visitation with five (5) or fewer people from outside the resident or client's household. Window visits are allowed as an option for outdoor visitation. However, providers must comply with other requirements of the LTC Safe Start Plan that have not been superseded by Governor's proclamation 20-25.8, must consider the standards adopted in your policies and procedures and your facility's or home's ability to manage outdoor visitation, and should consult the Local Health Jurisdiction to determine the most appropriate visitation practices for your facility or home.

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- Dining and activities must be limited to individuals living in the facility or home. All safety measures and other restrictions outlined in the LTC Safe Start Plan applicable to your facility or setting must be followed.
- Residents have the right to participate in holiday gatherings outside the facility or home. The provider should do the [risk assessment](#) before the resident or client leaves the facility and upon return to the facility to identify the level of risk, and implement any measures as indicated by the risk assessment upon the resident's return.

It is critical to continue to report COVID cases to DSHS via the online [survey tool](#). DSHS shares this information with the state Department of Health and Local Health Jurisdictions to focus resources including test kits and PPE. For more information, see the April 20, 2020 Provider Letter [here](#).

Remember, you and all residents, clients, and employees must work together with public health authorities in the investigation of cases, suspected cases, outbreaks, and suspected outbreaks of COVID-19, and with the implementation of infection control measures pursuant to State Board of Health [WAC 246-101-4265](#).

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager or your Local Health Jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

*Candace Goehring*

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"