



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

February 18, 2021

AL TSA: AFH #2021-013  
AL TSA: ALF #2021-011  
AL TSA: CCRSS #2010-011  
AL TSA: ESF #2021-011  
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-011  
AL TSA: NH #2021-018

**STANDING ORDER FOR COVID-19 SCREENING  
IN CERTAIN CONGREGATE FACILITIES, HOMES, AND AGENCIES**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

The Department of Health issued a standing order on January 25, 2021 to facilitate universal screening of residents, clients, and staff at certain congregate living settings (adult family homes, assisted living facilities, enhanced services facilities, certified community residential settings, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities). The order is focused on these settings as they are at greater risk of having COVID-19 outbreaks among residents and clients at high risk of severe complications from COVID-19. These screening efforts will help to identify COVID-19 infections in these congregate living facilities and inform COVID-19 prevention and control efforts. Click [here](#) to access the standing order.

The standing order allows a licensed health care provider who is authorized under Washington State law to administer SARS-CoV-2 tests to obtain a specimen from an eligible individual. An eligible individual is a resident, client, or staff member without suspected COVID-19 who lives or works in a congregate living facility that lacks a staff or contracted health care provider to order such testing. This order can only be used for residents, clients, and staff members of adult family homes, assisted living facilities, enhanced services facilities, certified community residential settings, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

The standing order lists the specific steps that must be followed by facility administrators, providers, superintendents, and licensed health care providers collecting specimens under this order.

This order cannot be used to test residents and staff at these facilities with suspected COVID-19 for diagnostic purposes or universal testing at facilities with a confirmed or suspected outbreak of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact the RCS Policy Unit at [RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse".

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"