



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

March 31, 2021
Amended April 8, 2021

AL TSA: AFH #2021-020
AL TSA: ALF #2021-019
AL TSA: NH #2021-027
AL TSA: CCRSS #2021-016
AL TSA: ESF #2021-018

REIMPLEMENTATION OF SURVEYS, INSPECTIONS, AND EVALUATIONS

Dear Administrator/Provider:

This letter is amended to include links for access to infection prevention assessment pathways and tools currently in use (see links in paragraph 2 below).

Residential Care Services (RCS) is planning a gradual reimplementation of full surveys, inspection, and evaluations beginning in April. The process will be a hybrid using onsite and remote methods, and will combine the standard survey, inspection, or evaluation process with the focused infection prevention assessment process.

This reimplementation will be gradual, starting with small numbers of facilities and homes each month. To prepare for reimplementation, we encourage you to conduct mock surveys, inspections, or evaluations using the [Standard Operating Procedure](#) and the infection prevention (IP) assessment pathway / tools linked below, specific to your setting.

- For AFH, ALF & ESF: [IP Assessment Pathway](#) / [IP Assessment Tool](#)
- For CCRSS: [IP Assessment Pathway](#) / [IP Assessment Tool](#)
- For NH: [Click here for ZIP file](#), then open the LTC Survey Pathways folder and select CMS-20054 Infection Prevention Control and Immunization

To help minimize our time in your facility or home, if you have electronic medical records, you should provide RCS staff remote access to the records upon notification that a survey, inspection, or evaluation has started. This access should be provided for the duration of the survey, inspection, or evaluation, and passwords should be changed after it is complete. You should also prepare a conference room or other adequate space for RCS staff to use during the onsite portion of the survey, inspection, or evaluation.

RCS staff are screened prior to conducting a survey, inspection, or evaluation. However, you may ask the COVID screening questions that you normally ask employees and others who enter your facility or home. RCS staff will wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for infection prevention. The RCS staff lead will work with you on ways to minimize contact and limit exposure as much as possible during the survey, inspection, or evaluation process.

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When RCS staff arrive at your facility or home, you must allow them entrance as they are considered essential workers. (See this linked [provider letter dated November 18, 2020](#) for more information.) As essential workers, RCS staff are not considered visitors and do not sign a visitor attestation, nor are they included in the calculation of maximum capacity. Policies that impose time limits or restrict hours do not apply to the RCS staff conducting surveys, inspections, or evaluations as these may interfere with the process.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"