



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

April 30, 2021

AL TSA: AFH #2021-024
AL TSA: ALF #2021-024
AL TSA: ESF #2021-022
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-020
AL TSA: NH #2021-034

**EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM AND
PROVISION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent:

On March 30, 2021, the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) and Department of Health (DOH) issued a guidance entitled *L&I and DOH Respirator and PPE Long-Term Care: Employer Responsibilities for Respiratory Protection Program and Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*. This guidance provides information for long-term care facilities (LTCF), healthcare workers (HCWs), and employers on when to use certain types of PPE, and what to do if your facility cannot obtain the recommended PPE.

Below is a brief summary of the content of the guidance. However, you must read the entire guidance to be fully informed of the all the requirements that apply to your long-term care setting (click [here](#)).

1. **LTCFs are required to develop and maintain a Respiratory Protection Program** under WAC 296-842-12005.
2. **LTCFs are required to provide initial fit-tests** for each HCW with the same model, style, and size respirator that the HCW will be required to wear for protection against COVID-19 and other airborne hazards.
3. **LTCFs are required to provide fit tested respirators** (N95, elastomeric or PAPR) to all HCWs with the potential to have contact with residents with known or suspected COVID-19.
4. **LTCFs are required to provide source control** to all staff who are providing care to residents, or whose work requires them to be within six feet of another person even if not required to wear PPE as described elsewhere in this document.
5. **LTCFs are required to provide gowns, gloves, and eye protection** to staff who are providing care to residents.

More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the current COVID-19 situation in Washington State (click [here](#)), Governor Inslee's proclamations (click [here](#)), symptoms (click [here](#)), how it spreads (click [here](#)), and how and when people should get tested (click [here](#)). DOH has also prepared Frequently Asked

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Questions (click [here](#)). These and many other links to valuable information can be found in the guidance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"