



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

November 8, 2021

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AL TSA: NH #2021-088

CLARIFICATION ON HEALTH CARE PROVIDER SCREENING

Dear Administrator / Provider / Superintendent:

On November 18, 2020, Residential Care Services [sent a letter](#) with information about health care providers, such as physicians, nurses, and physical or occupational therapists, entering facilities to provide resident care. This required health care providers to pass a health screening and wear a mask and all other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to enter a facility or a home. The health care provider screening is different from the screening for other individuals entering the facility and should follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The guidance states:

- A higher-risk exposure for health care providers means:
 - They had a prolonged close contact with a patient, visitor, or other health care provider with a confirmed COVID-19 infection **and one of the following:**
 - The health care provider was not wearing a respirator or face mask; **or**
 - The health care provider was not wearing eye protection when the person with a COVID-19 infection was not wearing a cloth mask or facemask; **or**
 - The health care provider was not wearing all recommended PPE while performing an aerosol-generating procedure.
- In general, vaccinated health care providers who have had a higher-risk exposure but do not have symptoms of COVID-19 must not be restricted from entering the facility. This also applies to health care providers who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection in the prior 90 days.
- Unvaccinated health care providers who have been given an accommodation to continue working must not be allowed to enter the facility for 14 days after their last higher-risk exposure.

You can find the guidance from the CDC at [the link here](#).

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.

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services
DSHS: "Transforming Lives"