



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

March 21, 2022

ALTSA: AFH #2022-013
ALTSA: ALF #2022-013
ALTSA: ESF #2011-012
RESUMING ON-SITE HCS CLIENT VISITS

Dear Administrator/Provider:

Home and Community Services (HCS) is resuming in person client visiting for long-term care Medicaid assessing and care planning beginning April 15, 2022.

HCS staff are screened by self-attestation prior to conducting an in-person case management appointment. You may ask the COVID screening questions that you normally ask employees and others who enter your facility or home. HCS staff will contact you before arriving to determine if there is any suspected or known COVID in the setting. In the event of known or suspected COVID, they will reschedule the in-person assessment for a later date or work with you and the client to complete remotely if delaying will negatively impact client access to Medicaid services. HCS staff will wear all appropriate source control (well fitted face mask or KN95), follow facility safety requirements and all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for infection prevention. The HCS case manager will work with you on ways to minimize contact and limit exposure as much as possible during the appointment.

When HCS staff arrive at your facility or home, you must allow them entrance as they are considered essential workers. As essential workers, HCS staff are not considered visitors and do not sign a visitor attestation, nor are they included in the calculation of maximum capacity.

- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is **not required** for HCS staff prior to entering a home. COVID-19 vaccination is a current condition of employment for HCS staff.
- A COVID test or proof of a recent COVID test is **not required** prior to HCS staff entering the facility. HCS staff do not meet the definition of "facility staff" that applies to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) staff testing regulations.

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

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"

Bea Rector, Director
Home and Community Services

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