



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

October 7, 2022

ALTSA: AFH #2022-046  
ALTSA: ALF #2022-039  
ALTSA: CCRSS # 2022-027  
ALTSA: ESF# 2022-034  
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2022-022  
ALTSA: NH #2022-058

**EPIDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE GUIDELINES**

Dear Administrator/ Provider/ Superintendent:

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1218, which requires the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Department of Health (DOH) to identify best practices and strategies for controlling the spread of infectious diseases in long-term care facilities.

In response to ESHB 1218, DSHS and DOH have created the [Epidemic Preparedness and Response Guidelines](#) for licensed and certified long-term care facilities and agencies.

These guidelines can be used as a tool to assist you in creating an epidemic preparedness plan that is unique to your facility. It is important to note that these guidelines are not mandatory or regulatory. The guidelines do not supersede existing state licensing regulations or Conditions of Participation for federally funded programs.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety.

If you have any questions, please contact Torre Wright, Epidemic Preparedness and Response Specialist, at (564) 200-3510 or [torre.wright@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:torre.wright@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

*DSHS: "Transforming Lives"*