



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

October 14, 2022  
**AMENDED November 9, 2022**

ALTSA: AFH #2022-047  
ALTSA: ALF #2022-040  
ALTSA: CCRSS #2022-028  
ALTSA: ESF #2022-035  
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2022-023  
ALTSA: NH #2022-059

**STATE OF EMERGENCY ENDING IN WASHINGTON STATE ON OCTOBER 31**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

**AMENDED:** This letter has been updated in response to changes to the eye protection guidance. The links provided here will take you to the most up-to-date information. The WAC citations for CCRSS providers has also been updated.

On September 8, [Governor Inslee announced](#) that the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic will end on October 31. While proclamations [20-36](#), [20-52](#), [20-65](#), and [20-66](#) will be rescinded on October 27 (see the [Provider letter](#) issued on September 9, 2022), the end of the state of emergency will have additional impacts on long-term care settings.

The Washington state vaccine requirement for health care workers will end. However, federal vaccination requirements remain in place, meaning nursing homes and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities must continue to employ staff that meet the vaccination requirements. (See [the Provider letter](#) issued on June 23, 2022.) DSHS employees must also continue to meet vaccine requirements.

The [statewide Face Covering Order](#) issued by the state Department of Health (DOH) will remain in place for health care and long-term care settings. Staff in long-term care facilities must continue to wear a face covering when residents are present.

The LTC COVID Response Plans will no longer be effective beginning October 27. However, facilities must continue to meet national standards for infection prevention, **including eye protection**, from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [DOH](#), according to the following regulations:

- AFH: [388-76-10255](#) Infection control
- ALF: [388-78A-2610](#) Infection control
- ESF: [388-107-0440](#) Infection control system
- NH: [388-97-1320](#) Infection control; [42 CFR 483.80](#) Infection control; [42 CFR 483.80\(i\)](#) COVID-19 Vaccination of facility staff
- **CCRSS: Providers will continue to educate and encourage clients to follow CDC guidance found in the [communal setting guidance](#) or the [multi-family home guidance](#), dependent on which is more appropriate to the specific client's situation and home in accordance with the following WAC sections: [388-101D-](#)**

**0060 Policies and procedures, 388-101D-0125 Client rights, 388-101D-0145 Client services, and 388-101D-0170 Physical and safety requirements. Other WAC sections may apply, depending on the situation.**

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please send an email to [RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"