



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

February 25, 2016

**AL TSA: NH #2016-005**  
**UPDATE REGARDING EXPECTATIONS FOR**  
**E-CIGARETTES & VAPING DEVICES**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

On August 31, 2015, Residential Care Services (RCS) released an administrator letter regarding the use of electronic-cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in long term care (LTC) facilities (NH # 2015-030). Since the release of the letter, at least one county in Washington has issued a specific ordinance banning the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices in certain locations. Other counties have indicated an interest in following suit.

Please keep in mind, while Washington State has not banned the use of e-cigarettes or vaping devices in certain locations, nursing home (NH) regulations do require each facility to also follow all local laws and codes (42 CFR § 483.75 (b), WAC 388-97-1620(2)(b)(i)). Facilities are responsible to know if their local jurisdiction has additional codes or restrictions that apply to the use of e-cigarettes. Facilities in counties with these codes will be expected to follow them. If a facility is found to be in violation of the code, they may be cited under the NH regulation that requires compliance with local laws and codes. Please note, while resident room(s) are not considered a public place, the room(s) are considered a part of a place of employment and are included in any restrictions that are specific to places of employment.

If you have any questions regarding potential ordinances or codes in your area, you can visit the following website to find a link to your local county health department:  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions> .

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of nursing home residents. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

*"Transforming Lives"*