



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

September 29, 2020

AL TSA: NH #2020-070
QSO-20-39-NH NURSING HOME VISITATION - COVID-19

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

On September 17, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a nursing home memorandum, [QSO-20-39-NH](#), regarding visitation guidance and the use of Civil Money Penalty (CMP) funds to facilitate outdoor visitation.

On September 23, 2020, Residential Care Services (RCS) issued a separate letter to nursing home administrators ([20-067](#)) that provided information about how to apply for CMP funds to purchase certain items for outdoor visits.

The guidance regarding visitation, dining, and activities, as well as the method for determining the correct facility phase, issued by CMS in the QSO memo differed from the guidance provided by Washington State, [Safe Start for Long Term Care](#). RCS has done a comparison of the criteria in the federal and state plans, and are working with provider associations, the CMS Region X office, and the governor's office to determine what may need to be revised in the Washington State plan and to develop clear direction to nursing homes on visitation.

RCS will release further visitation guidance as soon as possible. Until then, please continue to follow the Washington State plan to determine how to conduct visits to your facility.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager at (509) 209-3088 or lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"