



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

July 22, 2021

AL TSA: NH #2021-058
RESUMING ON-SITE HCS CLIENT VISITS

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

Home and Community Services (HCS) resumed in person client visits for long-term care Medicaid assessment and care planning on July 12, 2021, using a hybrid process of on-site and remote methods to complete these core functions. This letter follows a previous letter, dated June 18th and serves the purpose of providing further clarification on the conditions under which on-site visits will be conducted.

HCS staff are considered essential workers ([November 18, 2020 Provider Letter](#)). In accordance with the July 1, 2021 Safe Start Guidance for nursing homes ([NH ICF IID Safe Start CDC Guidance](#)), HCS staff must be permitted to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to an exposure to COVID-19 or show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after being screened.

- HCS staff will participate in active symptom screening and screening questions that would normally be conducted with employees or other visitors prior to entering the facility.
- 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. (See [QSO 20-38-NH Revised](#)).
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is **not required** for HCS staff prior to entering a home.

During the on-site visit, HCS staff will wear all appropriate source control, follow facility safety requirements and all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for infection prevention.

HCS staff will contact you before arriving to verify if there is any suspected or known COVID in the home. In the event there is a suspected or known COVID-19 diagnosis, the HCS staff person will reschedule the in-person assessment for a later date or work with you and the client to complete the assessment remotely if delaying will negatively impact client access to Medicaid services.

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

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"

Bea Rector, Director
Home and Community Services

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