



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

October 8, 2021

AL TSA: NH #2021-078

**RESCINDING CR-103E FOR WAC 388-97-1380, TUBERCULOSIS – TESTING REQUIRED AND
WAC 388-97-1580, TUBERCULOSIS – TEST RECORDS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

In January 2021, the Department of Social and Health Services (the department) filed emergency rules for WAC 388-97-1380 and WAC 388-97-1580 related to Tuberculosis (TB) testing to permit deferral of TB testing for staff and residents for COVID-19 vaccinations due to clinical interference. This emergency rule was extended several times.

On August 31, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that the COVID-19 vaccination should not be delayed because of testing for TB infection (follow this [link](#) to read the full CDC guidance). Testing for TB infection with one of the immune-based methods, either the tuberculin skin test (TST) or an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) can be done before, after, or during the same encounter as COVID-19 vaccination. Therefore, the department rescinded WSR 21-18-064 under WSR 21-20-018 on September 23, 2021, as the separation of the TB test and COVID-19 vaccine is no longer recommended.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Molly McClintock, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360) 742-6966 or molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse".

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"