



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

March 24, 2023

AL TSA: NH #2023-012
**STATEWIDE NURSING HOME NATCEP/CEP WAIVER EXTENDED TO THE END OF THE
FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY- MAY 11, 2023**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is planning for the federal COVID-19 pandemic Public Health Emergency (PHE) to expire at the end of May 11, 2023.

During the PHE, CMS has allowed certain Medicare and Medicaid waivers and flexibilities to help nursing homes address staffing shortages caused by the pandemic. This included a waiver that allowed facilities to employ individuals beyond four months in a nurse aide role even though they might not have completed a state-approved Nurse Aide Training and Competency Program (NATCEP) or Competency Evaluation Program.

Residential Care Services (RCS) applied and was approved for a state-wide NATCEP waiver through CMS as stated in [Dear Provider Letter AL TSA: NH #2022-057](#). This waiver was originally set to expire on March 29, 2023. However, CMS recently announced in the [CMS PHE Fact Sheet dated 2/27/2023](#), that *all nursing aide training emergency waivers for states and facilities will and at the end of the PHE, which is expected on **May 11, 2023***. At that time:

- Facilities will have four months (i.e., until September 10, 2023) to have all nurse aides that were hired prior to the end of the PHE (before or on 5/11/2023) complete a state approved NATCEP/CEP.
- Nurse aides hired after the end of the PHE (after 5/11/2023) will have up to four months from their date of hire to complete a state approved NATCEP/CEP.

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,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

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