



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

January 19, 2024

AL TSA: NH #2024-002

**NURSING HOME PROVIDER EXPECTATION TO FOLLOW PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

COVID-19, Influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) cases are increasing in Washington State. Residents living in long term care settings are at risk for developing severe illness from these respiratory viruses, which can be fatal. This letter is to remind Nursing Home Providers to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) recommendations and guidance. Public Health Guidance can change rapidly based on increased disease activity and transmission. Providers are expected to:

1. Follow CDC Healthcare Guidance for managing COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV:
  - [CDC COVID-19 Healthcare Guidance](#)
  - [Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings | CDC](#)
  - [RSV Guidance for Healthcare Professionals](#)
2. Report respiratory virus outbreaks and cases to your LHJ in compliance with [WAC 246-101/Notifiable Conditions](#).
3. **Report a *suspected* outbreak of COVID-19, flu, or any other communicable disease to the Department of Social and Health Services [online](#) or by calling the hotline at 1-800-562-6078.**
4. Understand Local Public Health Officers have the [authority](#) to make recommendations, such as universal source control/masking, isolation and quarantine, and other necessary measures to prevent and control the transmission of disease in their jurisdiction:
5. Know how to contact your [LHJ](#) to stay up-to-date with changes in recommendations and guidance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident/client health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact [Linda.Dunn@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Linda.Dunn@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"