



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Home and Community Living Administration
P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

March 18, 2026

HCLA: NH #2026-011

Emergency Preparedness - Health Care Provider Guidance Page – Updated

Dear Nursing Home Administrator,

Nursing homes are required to maintain a comprehensive emergency preparedness program, based on an all-hazards approach, that includes all four of the following elements: 1) risk assessment and planning; 2) policies and procedures; 3) a communication plan, and 4) a training and testing program.

To support facility success, CMS recently updated its emergency preparedness, "[Health Care Provider Guidance](#)" page to include the CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule Page: [CMS EP Rule | ASPR TRACIE](#). Provider checklists, containing [SOM Appendix Z](#) guidance, and various other resources and tools are provided.

Additionally, ASPR TRACIE provides personalized support for requests for information and technical assistance (TA) and is accessible by toll-free number (1-844-5-TRACIE (587-2243)), email (askasprtracie@hhs.gov), or web form (<https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/assistance-center/online-request-form>).

For any questions related to the information in this provider letter, please submit them to RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Amy Abbott in cursive.

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Partnering with People"

Related References:

- [Frequently Cited Deficiencies](#)