



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

March 26, 2026

HCLA: NH #2026-013
CR 103P Filed to Amend Chapter 388-97 WAC Codifying COVID Requirements
During the Pandemic

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

This message is to announce the filing of a CR-103P (Permanent Rule) amending [Chapter 388-97](#) Washington Administrative Code (WAC) NURSING HOMES WAC Sections.

On December 30, 2025, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (department) filed the CR-102 with the Office of the Code Reviser (WSR) to propose rules for adoption and announce the formal public comment period on the proposed rules. A public hearing on the proposed rules was held February 10, 2026. The department did not receive any comments during the public comment period. A Concise Explanatory statement can be found at the [here](#).

The adopted rules identify the requirements in place during the COVID-19 pandemic in Washington state. These rules were suspended or amended during the state of emergency. The rulemaking project codifies those requirements to ensure consistent implementation and enforcement of rule requirements in place, while returning to the pre-pandemic rules.

The department filed the CR-103P, Rule-making Order ([WSR 26-08-015](#)) on March 20, 2026, to announce the adoption of the proposed rules. These rules go into effect on April 20, 2026. The permanent rule won't appear online for at least two weeks after the full text of the rule is published in the Washington State Register.

If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Meyers, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360) 464-0373 or rcspolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbott, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"

Related References: 2. CR 103 ([WSR 26-08-015](#))
3. [Concise Explanatory Statement](#)