



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: March 14, 2022

TIME: 10:20 AM

WSR 22-07-040

Agency: Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)

Original Notice

Supplemental Notice to WSR _____

Continuance of WSR _____

Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 20-15-010 ; or

Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or

Proposal is exempt under RCW _____.

Title of rule and other identifying information: (describe subject) **WAC 388-845-2019, What modifications to waiver services apply during the COVID-19 outbreak?**

Hearing location(s):

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
April 26, 2022	10:00 a.m.	Office Building 2 DSHS Headquarters 1115 Washington Olympia, WA 98504 Or virtual	Public parking at 11 th and Jefferson. A map is available at: https://www.dshs.wa.gov/office-of-the-secretary/driving-directions-office-bldg-2 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hearings are being held virtually. Please see the DSHS website for the most current information.

Date of intended adoption: Not before April 27, 2022 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

Submit written comments to:

Name: DSHS Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 45850, Olympia WA 98504

Email: DSHSRPAURulesCoordinator@dshs.wa.gov

Fax: 360-664-6185

Other:

By (date) 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2022

Assistance for persons with disabilities:

Contact Shelley Tencza, Rules Consultant

Phone: 360-664-6036

Fax: 360-664-6185

TTY: 71 Relay Service

Email: tenczsa@dshs.wa.gov

Other:

By (date) 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2022

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules: This rule makes temporary allowances necessary to address the health and safety of waiver recipients and help control the spread of COVID-19. The allowances in this rule were approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in an Appendix K waiver, the purpose of which is to address the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency. These temporary allowances will end according to direction from CMS.

Reasons supporting proposal: This rule is necessary to help control the spread of COVID-19.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 71A.12.030

Statute being implemented: Chapter 71A.12 RCW

Is rule necessary because of a:

Federal Law?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Federal Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
State Court Decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

If yes, CITATION:

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters: None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration

<input type="checkbox"/> Private
<input type="checkbox"/> Public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Chantelle Diaz	P.O. Box 45310, Olympia, WA 98504-5310	360-407-1500
Implementation:	Ann Vasilev	P.O. Box 45310, Olympia, WA 98504-5310	360-407-1551
Enforcement:	Ann Vasilev	P.O. Box 45310, Olympia, WA 98504-5310	360-407-1551

Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135? Yes No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Fax:
TTY:
Email:
Other:

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name: Chantelle Diaz
Address: P.O. Box 45310, Olympia, WA 98504-5310
Phone: 360-407-1500
Fax: 360-407-0955
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
Email: Chantelle.Diaz@dshs.wa.gov
Other:

No: Please explain:

Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b) (Internal government operations)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c) (Incorporation by reference)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d) (Correct or clarify language)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e) (Dictated by statute)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f) (Set or adjust fees)
- RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g) ((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit)

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(4).

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary: A business should incur no more than minor costs when complying with this rule because the rule primarily affects the way services may be delivered by allowing services to be delivered: remotely; in excess of previous limits; and in more settings than previously allowed. Allowances in this rule are options for clients and providers to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Providing services remotely should not increase costs because providers already have telephones and both telephonic and video calls are allowed. If a provider delivers services in excess of previous limits the provider will receive reimbursement for the services delivered. Allowing services to be delivered in more settings than before is also optional; a client may continue to receive the service in the setting they received it previously.

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES


If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency’s analysis showing how costs were calculated. _____

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

- Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Fax:
- TTY:
- Email:
- Other:

Date: March 10, 2022	Signature: 
Name: Katherine I. Vasquez	
Title: Rules Coordinator	

NEW SECTION

WAC 388-845-2019 What modifications to waiver services apply during the COVID-19 outbreak? (1) Notwithstanding any contrary requirement under this title, changes under this section to DDA's home and community-based waivers are effective immediately and necessary to respond to managing the COVID-19 outbreak. All changes, except the provision of remote waiver services, require prior approval by the DDA director of the division of field services or designee and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. An allowance in this section is valid as long as it is approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services through the medicaid waiver process.

(2) The following changes to waiver services are temporary, effective immediately, and necessary to respond to managing the COVID-19 outbreak.

(a) All waiver services except goods may be offered remotely by providers when travel to the waiver participant is not possible due to COVID-19 infection or exposure.

(b) Limits to the number of respite hours a client may receive that are generated in the CARE assessment are temporarily suspended. The amount of respite hours a client may receive are determined by DDA.

(c) The basic plus, CIIBS, and individual and family services waiver aggregate budgets may be exceeded for COVID-19-related health and safety needs.

(d) Respite provided out-of-state may be provided in excess of 30 days.

(e) Community guide and community engagement may be provided to more than one client at a time.

(f) Staff and family consultation may be provided to more than one client at a time.

(g) Assistive technology is available on all five waiver programs when a waiver participant requires a technology in order to receive waiver-funded remote supports, to increase, maintain, or improve independence with daily living, to increase safety, or to facilitate social communication. Assistive technology is only available to the participant when access to technologies through other resources is not possible. Assistive technology includes:

(i) The evaluation of the needs of the waiver participant, including a functional evaluation of the participant in the participant's customary environment;

(ii) Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices;

(iii) Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, retaining, repairing, or replacing assistive technology devices;

(iv) Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs;

(v) Training or technical assistance for the participant and if appropriate, the participant's family;

(vi) Training or technical assistance for professionals, including individuals providing education and rehabilitation services, employers, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise involved in the assistive technology related life functions of individuals with disabilities; and

(vii) Distance-based observation and reporting provided by an assistive technology distance-based observation and reporting specialist.

(h) Assistive technology on the basic plus waiver is included as part of the list of aggregate services.

(i) If transportation is necessary to prevent illness or meet a client's immediate health and safety needs, waiver transportation services may be used to travel to a place where the client will not be receiving waiver services (e.g., transportation to a family member's home).

(3) If a client is displaced from their home because of quarantine or hospitalization, or if a provider is unavailable due to illness or business closure, the following waiver services may be provided in a hotel, shelter, church, other facility-based setting, or the home of a direct-care worker when those supports are not available through the medicaid state plan or another legally liable funding source:

- (a) Residential habilitation;
- (b) Respite care;
- (c) Positive behavior support;
- (d) Staff and family consultation;
- (e) Behavioral health stabilization- positive behavior support;
- (f) Behavioral health stabilization- crisis diversion beds;
- (g) Nurse delegation; and
- (h) Skilled nursing.

(4) Positive behavior support and staff and family consultation may be provided in an acute care setting such as a hospital or short-term institutional setting if:

(a) DDA determines that no other alternatives are available and a nonintegrated setting is the only setting available to meet the client's health and safety needs;

(b) The waiver service provider is not otherwise funded by another resource; and

(c) The waiver services do not duplicate services already available in that setting.

(5) The following changes to waiver service provider qualifications are temporary, effective immediately, and necessary to respond to managing the COVID-19 outbreak.

(a) Staff and family consultation may include emergency preparedness consultation support from a provider trained in emergency management or a similar field with a current DDA contract.

(b) Respite care may be provided by currently contracted positive behavior support providers.

(6) Specialized medical equipment and supply, specialized equipment and supply, and assistive technology provider types may include the use of a purchase card and community choice guides when supply or cost impacts occur due to COVID-19.

(7) The following changes to level-of-care evaluations and re-evaluations for waiver participants are temporary, effective immediately, and necessary to respond to managing the COVID-19 outbreak.

(a) A client's services may continue and the level-of-care reassessment may be postponed up to one year if due to illness or quarantine:

(i) The client, their representative, or a DDA employee are unable to participate in the reassessment; or

(ii) There is insufficient time for the case manager to complete the annual reassessment paperwork.

(b) On a case-by-case basis, the time limit for approving a client's expired person-centered service plan may be extended if:

(i) The plan currently meets the client's needs; and

(ii) Monthly remote or telephonic monitoring is provided to ensure the plan continues to meet the client's needs.

(c) Telephonic assessments may occur in place of face-to-face assessments on a case-by-case basis. An initial assessment may be conducted telephonically when needed to prevent potential exposure related to COVID-19.

(d) For initial CARE assessments, employees may complete the assessment and person-centered service plan via the telephone or other electronic means and then do a brief in-person visit before moving the assessment to current.

(e) If the previsit questionnaire response indicates it is not safe to do an in-person visit, services can be authorized prior to an in-person visit occurring.

(f) A person-centered service plan, or revisions to a person-centered service plan, may be approved with a retroactive approval date for service needs identified to mitigate harm or risk directly related to COVID-19 impacts. Telephonic (or other information technology medium) assessments may occur when the assessment cannot occur due to impacts of COVID-19.

(8) CIIBS waiver quarterly face-to-face meeting requirement may be provided telephonically when a face-to-face meeting cannot occur due to client or client representative health concerns or staffing availability.