



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

April 30, 2021

AL TSA: CCRSS #2021-020
EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM AND
PROVISION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Dear Provider:

On March 30, 2021, the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) and Department of Health (DOH) issued a guidance entitled *L&I and DOH Respirator and PPE for In-Home Care Agencies: Employer Responsibilities for Respiratory Protection Program and Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*. This guidance provides information for in-home care agency healthcare workers (HCWs) and employers on when to use certain types of PPE, and what to do if your agency cannot obtain the recommended PPE.

Below is a brief summary of the content of the guidance. However, you must read the entire guidance to be fully informed of all the requirements that apply to your agency (click [here](#)).

1. **In-home care agencies are required to develop and maintain a Respiratory Protection Program** under WAC 296-842-12005.
2. **In-home care agencies are required to provide initial fit-tests** for each HCW with the same model, style, and size respirator that the HCW will be required to wear for protection against COVID-19 and other airborne hazards.
3. **In-home care agencies are required to provide fit tested respirators** (N95, elastomeric or PAPR) to all HCWs with the potential to have contact with patients/clients with known or suspected COVID-19:
4. **In-home care agencies are required to provide source control** to all staff who are providing care to patients/clients, or whose work requires them to be within six feet of another person (e.g., HCWs, patients/clients, other people in the home, etc.), even if not required to wear PPE as described elsewhere in this document. Patients/clients should not wear source control if contraindicated.
5. **In-home care agencies are required to provide gowns, gloves, and eye protection** to staff who are entering patient/clients homes. Gowns and gloves should be used according to standard precautions.

More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the current COVID-19 situation in Washington State (click [here](#)), Governor Inslee's proclamations (click [here](#)), symptoms (click [here](#)), how it spreads (click [here](#)), and how and when people should get tested (click [here](#)). DOH has also prepared Frequently Asked Questions (click [here](#)). These and many other links to valuable information can be found in the guidance.

AL TSA Provider Letter: EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION
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April 30, 2021

Page 2

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*