



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

February 25, 2016

AL TSA: ICF/IID #2016-002
UPDATE REGARDING EXPECTATIONS
FOR E-CIGARETTES & VAPING DEVICES

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent:

On August 31, 2015, Residential Care Services (RCS) released an administrator letter regarding the use of electronic-cigarettes (e-cigarettes) in long term care (LTC) facilities (ICF/IID # 2015-009). Since the release of the letter, at least one county in Washington has issued a specific ordinance banning the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices in certain locations. Other counties have indicated an interest in following suit.

Please keep in mind, while Washington State has not banned the use of e-cigarettes or vaping devices in certain locations, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) regulations do require each facility to also follow all local laws and codes (42 CFR § 483.410 (b)). Facilities are responsible to know if their local jurisdiction has additional codes or restrictions that apply to the use of e-cigarettes. Facilities in counties with these codes will be expected to follow them. If a facility is found to be in violation of the code, they may be cited under the ICF/IID regulation that requires compliance with local laws and codes. Please note, while resident room(s) are not considered a public place, the room(s) are considered a part of a place of employment and are included in any restrictions that are specific to places of employment.

If you have any questions regarding potential ordinances or codes in your area, you can visit the following website to find a link to your local county health department:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/PublicHealthSystem/LocalHealthJurisdictions> .

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of ICF/IID residents. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director
Residential Care Services

"Transforming Lives"