



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

September 17, 2021

AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-044
QSO-21-21-ICFIID - INTERIM FINAL RULE - COVID-19 VACCINE IMMUNIZATION
REQUIREMENTS FOR CLIENTS AND STAFF IN ICFs/IID

Dear ICF/IID Superintendent:

On May 11, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published an interim final rule with comment period. This rule establishes Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff. This includes new requirements for educating client or client representatives and staff regarding the benefits and potential side effects associated with the COVID-19 vaccine and offering the vaccine. Additionally, ICF/IIDs are encouraged to report COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics treatment information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [National Healthcare Safety Network \(NHSN\)](#)

On August 25, 2021, with [QSO-21-21-ICFIID](#), CMS announced the update of ICF/IID regulations to establish LTC facility requirements for COVID-19 immunization. The new requirements help ensure ICF/IID clients are offered COVID-19 vaccinations and education to help protect people most at risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19. CMS added new requirements at [42 CFR 483.460 \(a\)\(4\)](#) directing ICFs/IID to develop policies and procedures to educate clients, their representatives, and staff on the benefits and risks, and potential side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine. The ICF/IID must also offer the vaccine unless it is medically contraindicated, or the client or staff member has already been immunized. Also, the facility must maintain appropriate documentation to reflect the provision of the required COVID-19 vaccine education and offering, and whether the client and staff member received the vaccine or did not receive it due to **medical contraindications** ([found here](#)) or refusal.

In order to protect ICF/IID clients from COVID-19, there must be a robust vaccination program in each ICF/IID. [QSO-21-21-ICFIID](#) provides guidance on:

- Education
- Offering Vaccinations
- Vaccination Administration
- Vaccination Adverse Event Reporting
- Vaccination Refusal
- Documentation

Noncompliance related to the new requirements for educating and offering COVID-19 vaccination to clients and staff will be cited at W-tags 500-507.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Hoeman, Policy Program Manager, at (360) 725-3210 or debra.hoeman@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

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