



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

December 14, 2020

AL TSA: AFH #2020-074  
AL TSA: ALF #2020-067  
AL TSA: CCRSS #2020-055  
AL TSA: ESF #2020-055  
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-055  
AL TSA: NH #2020-101

**NEW AND UPDATED GUIDANCE REGARDING GROUP ACTIVITIES AND  
COMMUNAL DINING, OUTDOOR VISITATION, AND RISK ASSESSMENT AFTER  
COMMUNITY VISITS**

Dear Administrator / Provider / Superintendent:

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) released one new and two updated guidance documents to assist long-term care (LTC) facilities in safeguarding the health of staff and residents.

The [Interim Supplemental Guidance for Allowing Group Activities and Communal Dining in Long-Term Care Facilities](#) is new guidance. The [Outdoor Visitation Guidance for Long-Term Care Settings](#), and [Risk Assessment Template to Assess COVID-19 Exposure Risk for Residents/Clients after Community Visits](#) are updated with the latest public health recommendations.

This guidance is in addition to the [Safe Start for Long-Term Care Plans](#). Please refer to the appropriate plan for your facility type for further guidance to reduce the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission to residents and staff. Also continue visiting the [DOH website](#) for up to date information.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact DOH using this email address: [HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HAI-COVID@doh.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

*Candace Goehring*

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"