



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

January 28, 2021

ALTSA: AFH #2021-003  
ALTSA: ALF #2021-002  
ALTSA: CCRSS #2021-002  
ALTSA: ESF #2021-002  
ALTSA: ICF/IID #2021-002  
ALTSA: NH #2021-007

**SAFE START FOR LONG-TERM CARE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:  
UPDATES AND WEBINAR**

Dear Provider / Superintendent / Administrator:

Effective February 1, 2021, revised [Safe Start for Long-Term Care Recommendations and Requirements](#) (Safe Start Plans) go into effect. Long-term care settings and providers are required to follow these Safe Start Plans, which are independent of the Governor's January 11, 2021, [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery](#) (roadmap). While the new roadmap effects many people and places in Washington State, long-term care settings and providers must operate under the applicable [Safe Start for Long-Term Care Recommendations and Requirements](#), and under [Governor's Proclamation 20-66](#). However, the Safe Start Plans will refer you to the roadmap where appropriate.

As Washington State communities begin to reopen under the roadmap and expand availability of services and activities, citizens are able to enjoy more time in the community away from home. It is important to recognize that long-term care residents and clients are able to participate in activities away from the home or facility if needed or desired under resident and client rights laws and rules. With residents and clients leaving the home or facility, providers must be mindful of infection control and implement specific procedures to follow when a client or resident returns from an outing. The Safe Start Plans include specific guidance about this process and other infection control measures to help guide you.

Residential Care Services is providing a webinar on January 29th, 1-2 pm, to review the updates to the Safe Start Plans. If you have not yet registered for the webinar, please use the link below:

LTCF Safe Start Update on January 29, 2021 1:00 PM PST at:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7117474530213088528>

**If you are unable to access the above link, please cut and paste the link into your browser to open it.** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

If you have already participated in the January 28th webinar, there is no need to do anything further as the same information will be presented on both dates.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please email [RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

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