



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

February 10, 2021

**AL TSA: NH #2021-012**  
**AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-007**  
**QSO-21-11-ALL NEW PLATFORM FOR SUBMISSION**  
**OF 1135 WAIVER REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES - GO LIVE**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

When the President declares a disaster or emergency, and the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary declares a public health emergency (PHE), the HHS Secretary is authorized to take certain actions, including authorizing waivers under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act. One type of waiver is a blanket waiver, to provide flexibilities nationally or to certain geographic areas. When a blanket waiver is issued, providers or suppliers do not have to apply for an individual waiver. In the absence of a blanket waiver, providers may ask for an individual Section 1135 waiver.

Due to the high volume of requests, the COVID-19 PHE highlighted challenges for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and nursing home providers related to submission and tracking of individual Section 1135 waivers.

To streamline the waiver request and tracking process, CMS developed a web-based tool for waiver requests. The tool went live on January 11, 2021, and may be utilized for the current COVID-19 PHE and for any future declared emergencies. CMS released Information about the web-based tool on January 11, 2021 in [QSO-21-11-ALL](#).

- The tool is located at [CMS PHE Emergency Web Portal](#).
- CMS is providing training on this new system at the following link: [CMS YouTube 1135 Waiver and Inquiry Web Training](#).
- For questions about the memo or the 1135 waiver tool, contact: [1135waiver@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:1135waiver@cms.hhs.gov).

If you have any other questions, please contact Lisa Herke, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (509) 209-3088 or [lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.herke@dshs.wa.gov) or Deb Hoeman, ICF/IID Policy Program Manager, at (360) 725-3210 or [Debra.Hoeman@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Debra.Hoeman@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

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