



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

May 5, 2021

AL TSA: AFH #2021-025
AL TSA: ALF #2021-025
AL TSA: CCRSS #2021-021
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2021-021
AL TSA: ESF #2021-023

VISITATION AND OTHER SAFE START PLAN UPDATES - COVID-19

Dear Administrator / Provider / Superintendent:

Effective April 30, 2021 Washington State updated the [Safe Start for Long Term Care](#) to align the plan with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for communal dining and activities: [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#). The CDC updated guidance on the following:

- Core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention, which were updated to include new guidance on use of face coverings or masks, and social distancing at least six feet.
- Indoor visitation guidance.
- Close contact (including touch) recommendations for fully vaccinated residents.
- Communal dining and activities, including permitting fully vaccinated resident to dine and participate in activities without face coverings or social distancing if all participating residents are fully vaccinated. If unvaccinated residents are present, all resident should use face coverings when not eating and unvaccinated residents should physically distance from others.

Please continue to follow the Washington State Safe Start for Long Term Care plan, and the directives of your local health jurisdiction if the local health jurisdiction has requirements additional to the Safe Start plan.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"