



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

November 5, 2021

AL TSA: AFH #2021-061
AL TSA: ALF #2021-061
AL TSA: CCRSS #2021-055
AL TSA: NH #2021-087

RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING AND RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM RESOURCE

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

One of the challenges faced by Long-Term Care (LTC) settings is learning how to develop a respiratory protection program (RPP) and accessing resources for fit testing N95 respirators.

The Department of Health (DOH) recognized the struggle that healthcare and LTC settings were having. A group of DOH occupational health nurses developed a DOH Respiratory Protection Program [website](#) with links to free online respirator medical clearance evaluation and free on-site (mobile) respirator fit testing. The free medical clearance and free fit testing are funded through DOH by the CARES ACT. The free services will be available through December 31, 2021.

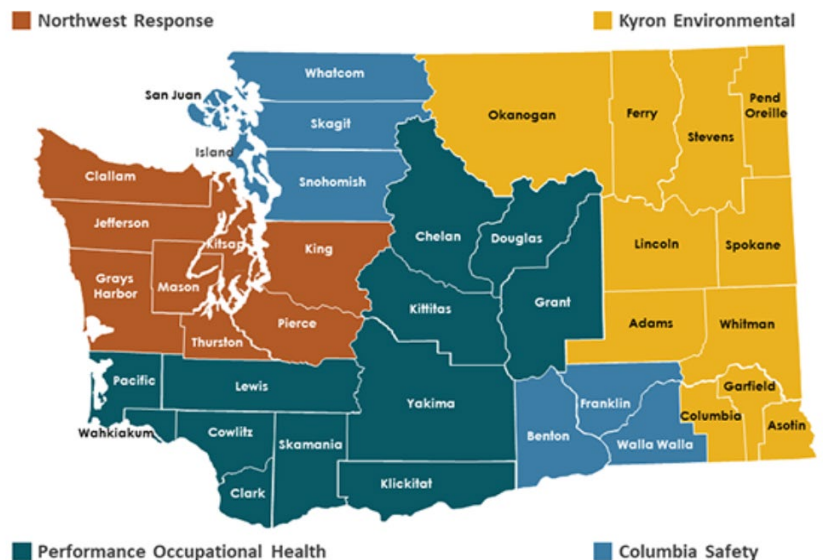
LTC settings covered by this free service include:

- Assisted living facilities
- Skilled nursing facilities/nursing homes
- Adult family homes
- Supported living agencies
- Home care agencies
- Home health & hospice agencies

LTC settings can find on the site:

- [The Five Steps of Respiratory Protection Program](#) – this poster presents RPP requirements contained in regulation so that LTC settings know what to do
- Directions for enrolling employees in no-cost, online respirator medical evaluations
- Link to access free on-site fit testing
- Frequently Asked Questions about fit testing, respirators, and medical evaluations to wear respirators

DOH Contractors Providing Free Fit Testing by County



In addition to fit testing and medical clearance evaluation, DOH nurses developed training for LTC setting administrators and staff. Some of the training comes in the form of a PowerPoint template that LTC settings can adapt and use to provide required respiratory protection plan

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training for staff. LTC settings can access this training support for free from the DOH Respiratory Protection Program [website](#) or by emailing HAI-FitTest@doh.wa.gov.

It appears that the pandemic and our need for respiratory protection will continue for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Ander, Interim Infection Preventionist/Project Support at Katherine.Ander@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Anbesse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"