



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

December 17, 2021

ALTSA: AFH #2021-065  
ALTSA: ALF #2021-065  
ALTSA: NH #2021-092  
ALTSA: CCRSS #2021-061  
ALTSA: ESF #2021-057

**ALLOWING RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES ACCESS TO FACILITIES**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

Residential Care Services (RCS) is continuing to reimplement licensing inspection schedules as well as conduct onsite investigations. RCS staff has reported occasional denial of entrance to long-term care facilities if they do not show proof of vaccination. The following rules require long-term care facilities to allow department access during inspections and investigations:

- Adult family homes: [WAC 388-76-10003](#)
- Assisted living facilities: [WAC 388-78A-3140](#)
- Nursing homes: [WAC 388-97-4360](#)
- Certified Community Residential Support Services: [WAC 388-101-3150](#)
- Enhanced Services Facilities: [WAC 388-107-1420](#)

RCS staff are required to enter homes and facilities to complete investigations and inspections. RCS staff are subject to the same vaccine requirements in Governor's Proclamation 21.14.1 as long-term care workers, and, as the employer, RCS has verified the vaccine status of each staff member. The staff are also offered the opportunity to test regularly before entering homes and facilities. RCS staff are not required to show proof of vaccination prior to entering a long-term care facility, nor are they required to complete the facility based COVID testing prior to entering the building. RCS staff will wear all appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and follow all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for infection prevention. The RCS staff will work with you on ways to minimize contact and limit exposure as much as possible during the survey, inspection, or evaluation process. Policies that impose time limits or restrict hours do not apply to the RCS staff conducting surveys, inspections, or evaluations as these may interfere with the process.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact your local RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"