



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

March 4, 2022

AL TSA: AFH #2022-009
AL TSA: ALF #2022-008
AL TSA: ESF #2022-008
AL TSA: ICF/IID #2022-007
AL TSA: NH #2022-017

**SAFE START FOR LONG-TERM CARE PLANS REPLACED WITH
LONG-TERM CARE COVID RESPONSE PLAN**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

The Department of Health and the Department of Social and Health Services have replaced the *Safe Start for Long-Term Care Recommendations and Requirements Documents* with the *Long-Term Care (LTC) COVID Response* plan. The updated plan is effective as of February 23, 2022.

The plan also includes the following changes:

- Updates visitation recommendations to allow for open visitation in long-term care facilities, unless there is a reasonable clinical or safety cause;
- Provides direction and resources to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Health (DOH), and the local health jurisdiction.
- Nursing homes and ICF/IID must also follow guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS.)

You can find the new plans by following the links below:

- Click here to view the [LTC COVID Response Plan for AFH, ALF, and ESF](#)
- Click here to view the [LTC COVID Response Plan for NH and ICF/IID](#)

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"