



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

April 1, 2022

**AL TSA: AFH #2022-014**

**AL TSA: ESF #2022-013**

**MEDICAL TEST SITE WAIVER REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Provider:

This letter is to inform you about state and federal regulations related to COVID-19 and other medical tests done in Adult Family Homes (AFH) and Enhanced Services Facilities (ESF). Certain types of medical testing require a state Medical Test Site Waiver (MTSW) license. One type of activity requiring a MTSW license is testing residents for COVID-19. Other types of medical testing requiring a MTSW license include, but are not limited to, blood glucose tests and urine tests.

This letter explains federal and Washington state MTSW licensure requirements and how to decide if the medical tests conducted in your facility require a MTSW license.

**Federal and state Medical Test Site Waivers**

In Washington state, a Medical Test Site Waiver license is required to perform certain medical tests where Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services federal regulations require a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waived certificate. The Washington state MTSW license meets both federal and state requirements and includes both the state license number **and** a CLIA number to meet requirements.

**How do I decide if a MTSW license is required?**

MTSW licensure is required when the AFH or ESF provider administers a medical test (such as a COVID-19 test or blood glucose test), or interprets the test result, or acts upon the test results. Examples of activities performed by providers or staff that require a MTSW license are when a provider:

- Uses rapid COVID-19 tests for residents.
- Tests blood glucose for a resident.
- Dips test sticks in urine to test for ketones or other analytes.
- Reports a test result to a medical provider who may adjust a resident's diet or medication in response to a test result.

**When is a MTSW license NOT required?**

MTSW licensure is **not** required if a person performs and interprets their own medical test or shows their test result to someone else. For example, when:

- A staff person takes a rapid COVID-19 test and interprets the result, then calls the provider to report they will or will not be coming to work.
- A resident independently takes the medical test and acts upon the results themselves (such as by adjusting their own diet or medication or calling the medical provider).

### What do I do if a MTSW is required?

If the AFH or ESF is testing residents using a medical test, then a MTSW license is required. The provider must apply for a MTSW license through the Department of Health (DOH) to be compliant with state and federal regulations.

- Providers must mail the completed [MTSW license application](#) to the Olympia address listed on the application.
- Providers that have submitted a MTSW license application with fee payment may conduct testing activities while their MTSW license is pending. Once the application is processed, providers will receive an email with their Medical Test Site and CLIA Number from DOH.
- A provider who already has a MTSW license to perform COVID-19 testing must submit a [Test Menu Change Form 505-088](#) to add to their license any other tests they are already conducting (such as blood glucose monitoring) to their existing MTSW license.
- For more information on how to apply for a Washington state MTSW license, use this link:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/FacilitiesNewReneworUpdate/LaboratoryQualityAssurance/Licensing/Applications>

### Are there reporting requirements related to medical testing?

There are reporting requirements related to COVID-19 testing. For information about reporting COVID-19 test results to DOH, use this link:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/HealthcareProviders/ReportingTestResults/ReportingCOVID19TestResultsforPointofCareTestingFacilities>.

### Where can I get more information?

The Department of Health, with Residential Care Services, developed a webinar to help explain the application process, the reporting requirements for COVID testing, and to answer questions. The webinar is scheduled for two dates and each webinar is limited to the first 1,000 people who join. The webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to participate.

Providers do not have to wait for the webinar to apply for a MTSW license. We encourage providers to apply as soon as possible.

We will present the webinar on Microsoft Teams on the following dates:

<p><b>April 14, 2022 2:00 pm to 3:45 pm</b></p> <p><b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p><b>Or call in (audio only)</b> <a href="#">+1 564-999-2000,,472281315#</a> Olympia, WA Phone Conference ID: 472 281 315# <a href="#">Find a local number</a>   <a href="#">Reset PIN</a></p>	<p><b>April 18, 2022 2:00 pm to 3:45 pm</b></p> <p><b>Join on your computer or mobile app</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p><b>Or call in (audio only)</b> <a href="#">+1 564-999-2000,,735793773#</a> Olympia, WA Phone Conference ID: 735 793 773# <a href="#">Find a local number</a>   <a href="#">Reset PIN</a></p>
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Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions about MTSW licensure, please contact the Department of Health Medical Test Site program at [LQA@doh.wa.gov](mailto:LQA@doh.wa.gov) or 253-395-6746.

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"*