

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

January 10, 2020

ALTSA: NH #2020-001 INFECTION CONTROL IN LONG-TERM CARE WEBINAR SERIES

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) recently announced an educational series to improve infection prevention in nursing homes, "Infection Control in Long Term Care Webinar Series." In past years, the EQuIP (Education, Quality and Infection Prevention) program provided this infection prevention and control education.

The first webinar in the series will be January 30, 2020 from 10:30-11:30 AM. Subsequent webinars will be the last Thursday of each month, through the end of 2020. To register for the free webinar series, use this link:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7815921690815559692

Some of the proposed topics include CMS updates on improving infection prevention in nursing homes (<u>QSO 20-03-NH</u>), new "enhanced barrier precautions," preventing transmission of *candida auris*, best practices in wound care, surveillance 101, diagnostic stewardship and specimen collection, infection prevention bundles, gastrointestinal and influenza outbreaks, assessing risk, and antimicrobial stewardship.

The EQuIP program continues to offer other valuable resources, tools and programs nursing homes can utilize to improve their infection control and prevention programs. The EQuIP program link:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/HealthcareAssociatedInfections/E QuIP/LTC

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of nursing home residents. If you have any questions about the webinar series or the EQuIP program, please contact Marisa D'Angeli, Medical Epidemiologist, DOH at (206) 418-5595 or <u>marisa.dangeli@doh.wa.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

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Candace Goehring, Director Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"