



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

March 21, 2022

AL TSA: NH #2022-021
RESUMING ON-SITE HCS CLIENT VISITS

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

Home and Community Services (HCS) is fully resuming in person client visits for long-term care Medicaid assessment and care planning effective April 1, 2022.

HCS staff are considered essential workers. HCS staff must be permitted to come into the facility as long as they are not subject to a work exclusion due to an exposure to COVID-19 or show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 after being screened.

- HCS staff will participate in symptom screening and screening questions that would normally be conducted with employees or other visitors prior to entering the facility.
- A COVID test or proof of a recent COVID test is **not required** prior to HCS staff entering the facility. HCS staff do not meet the definition of "facility staff" that applies to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) staff testing regulations.
- Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is **not required** for HCS staff prior to entering a home.

During the on-site visit, HCS staff will wear appropriate source control (well-fitted surgical mask or KN95, in addition to a face shield if required or preferred), follow facility safety requirements and all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for infection prevention.

HCS staff will contact you before arriving to verify if there is any suspected or known COVID in the home. In the event there is a suspected or known COVID-19 diagnosis, the HCS staff person will reschedule the in-person assessment for a later date or work with you and the client to complete the assessment remotely if delaying will negatively impact client access to Medicaid services.

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

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director
Residential Care Services

DSHS: "Transforming Lives"

Bea Rector, Director
Home and Community Services

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