

Long-Term Care (LTC) COVID-19 Q&A Weekly Sessions: 11/5/20		
Question Asked	Answer Given	Answerer
PPE/Fit testing		
SNF- With regards to eye protection some of our staff who wear eye glasses have found an adaptor piece that can attach to their eyeglasses to allow for side protection, without wearing two pairs of eyewear. We do not have any active COVID cases in the building. Would this adaptation be acceptable for eye protection?	Hazard is aerosolized particles, goggles that seal provide more protection than safety glasses. https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/eyesafe.html Face shields are an option that help protect the surgical masks from direct contact with exhaled secretions, and can be reused.	Mary/Bev/Audrey
Mask- Is using a HEPA mask okay in an AFH? Amazon sells them. Broad AirPro Mask Powered Air Purifying Respirator https://www.amazon.com/Broad-AirPro-Powered-Purifying-Respirator/dp/B086Z2B2F8/ref=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=hepa+masks&qid=1604423109&sr=8-9	Not an approved device. Has to be a NIOSH approved respirator, N-95 or above. If you have a COVID case should provide employees with fit tested N-95 mask. We recommend that if you are using KN95s or surgical masks you discard daily.	Mary/LNI
AFH: Can you please clarify face covering requirements for AFHs. Do caregivers have to wear both surgical mask and face shield at all times?	Yes, need to reduce the risk of transmission between staff and resident and also staff to staff when working.	Beverly
AFH: If we have a certified fit test for KN95 masks for our caregivers, do we stil have to pursue a fit test for all our caregivers when we're able to get access to N95 masks as well?	Each model or size, must be fit tested for. Need medical health screening/clearance.	
Testing		
AFH-Regarding Covid testing for all staff, residents, household members- what about for children above 5 years old and under 18 years old? Are they opted in to taking the tests? Will state support/pay for the children in point in time testing being tested?	If testing during an outbreak, all household members are tested per LHJ & they can help with pay. For Point prevalence testing, please include all persons who <u>live</u> in the AFH, including all persons in the providers family who live in the home, or family members of caregivers if those family member also live in the AFH.	Shauna/Amy
I have a question I sent late. I have an ALF and an AFH that did not receive the testing letter and don't know who to contact because it says the state will contact them. WHO should I tell them to contact?	email doh-cbts.imt@doh.wa.gov	

<p>Attending late, but is Washington expected to come out with a routine staff testing plan for assisted living based on county positivity rates? If so, when? And will WA be sending out guidance for use of Abbott point of care testing in ALF?</p>	<p>The DOH has not issued any guidance regarding regular testing in ALFs or AFHs at this time. Guidance regarding how to use the BinaxNOW rapid antigen cards will come when facilities are asked if they want them. If they have received tests directly from HHS, they should follow the same guidance as the SNFs are. King county sent letter to SNFs for weekly testing recommendation but with suggestion for AL & AFH to test weekly or as often as possible.</p>	<p>Shauna/Charissa</p>
<p>For AFH, when do we need to have COVID test done for our homes?</p>	<p>Dear provider letter going out Nov 9- new way for outreach & updated date of Dec 31</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>Visitation/Services</p>		
<p>For an ALF, could we facilitate an outdoor visit for family members and a resident with greater than 6 feet distance between parties and have them enjoy a meal/hot chocolate/coffee?</p>	<p>Meal might be too risky. Hot choc/coffee is more easily managed though it is not recommended to have residents and families interact unmasked. Reach out to LHJ</p>	<p>Audrey/Shauna</p>
<p>We have several residents that would benefit by having an Essential Service Person. These residents are able to access outside visits. But many residents are wary of colder weather and will forgo visitations on cold, rainy and windy days. Some residents are having health issues and/or decreased mood and are not end-of-life, but would benefit tremendously from increased family/friend engagement (ESP). What will be the test our licensors will hold us to for determining if a resident would benefit substantially by having an ESP?</p>	<p>This will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Currently we DSHS, DOH, the associations, and the LHJs are working to update the Safe Start documents to address visitation given the inclement weather.</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>There was a DSHS epidemiologist who visited a local ALF and stated that ALFs would not be cited for doing indoor visits. Is that true? I think there is conflicting information for LHJ and DSHS</p>	<p>DSHS has surveyors & licensors. Unclear if this was a DSHS staff person who visited. Current safe start for indoor visits is only for compassionate care. Currently we DSHS, DOH, the associations, and the LHJs are working to update the Safe Start documents to address visitation given the inclement weather.</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>Assisted Living Facility: We are getting a lot of questions from families about indoor visits with the colder weather. One suggestion was having the resident in the building use a plastic barrier and have family sitting outside. Thoughts on this idea??</p>	<p>Depends on layout of building. Additional guidance to come on visitation. Concern about egress being maintained. Consult with LHJ if this is not addressed in guidance. - ventilation, screening, social distance</p>	<p>Larissa/Audrey</p>

<p>AL community - On Oct 22nd it was suggested that visits by resident driving around with family was ok. Would it also be ok to use our bus to create a space to meet in. We can have heat blowing, windows open and masks on etc. They can even get 6 feet apart. This seems safer then family driving them as we can observe their visit as well. access isn't an issue as we have lifts on the bus. Thanks!</p>	<p>See upcoming guidance on visitation. Want to be flexible. LHJ is good resource and can troubleshoot scenarios and the strength of your layout.</p>	<p>Larissa/DSHS</p>
<p>AL-Has DSHS come out with any guidance for indoor visitations as the weather is getting worse</p>	<p>Currently DSHS, DOH, the associations, and the LHJs are working to update the Safe Start documents to address visitation given the inclement weather.</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>ALF: any idea when we can expect guidance for indoor visits as the weather worsens and holidays approach?</p>	<p>Currently DSHS, DOH, the associations, and the LHJs are working to update the Safe Start documents to address visitation given the inclement weather.</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>Are you on track to provide guidelines next week for indoor visitations for assisted living?</p>	<p>The goal is to present to leadership and Governors office by the 13th</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>We were told the 13th for visitation guidelines. is that still the case? Residents are suffering</p>	<p>Final drafts due to governor office on 13th. look at compassionate care for psychosocial reasons review documentation. Can be reviewed on a case by case basis</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>While I appreciate the state wants to ensure the updated guidance is the right guidance, it is difficult to keep explaining to family, nearly two months into inclement weather, that we are still waiting, and will for another 'few weeks' before we can take any further measures to safe visitation outside of what we are already doing which is not <u>entirely adequate.</u></p>	<p>The goal is to present to leadership and Governors office by the 13th a plan for safe visitation that accounts for the inclement weather.</p>	<p>Amy</p>
<p>AL Setting: I think it would be helpful for many of us as providers if the state (DSHS? DOH?) could craft a letter that facilities could elect to use with residents and family as to the delay in providing updated guidance and that until such guidance, facilities are held to the appropriate Safe Start phase. Additional reason for this is family members are calling saying they know such and such facility is doing indoor visits or such that contradicts Safe Start plan.</p>	<p>Thank you for the recommendation</p>	<p>Amy</p>

I agree with this writer. Oregon has already released indoor visit guidance. We are behind the mark!! Please urge the department to expedite the safe start changes. Our residents are suffering.	The goal is to present to leadership and Governors office by the 13th a plan for safe visitation that accounts for the inclement weather.	Amy
What is the process for getting approval for an outside heater for a gazebo being used for outdoor visits?	There is not a specific process. The home needs to assure all safety measures are followed taking into account potential burn risks, tripping hazards, or risk of carbon monoxide (depending on the type of heater used).	Amy
We are a SNF in Spokane. Looking for clarification on whether we can have hair dressers back in the building if they use appropriate precautions (one resident in salon at a time, appropriate sanitizing, etc.)	Reach out to LHJ as transmissions has increased. Screening, masking. More info with revised safe start guidance	Audrey
Included in governor's proclamation was a restriction of live music. Does this apply to senior living as well?	Each Safe Start for LTC plan also requires the facility to take into account any restrictions of the overall Safe Start WA plan that applies to all WA businesses and residents.	Amy
Other		
SNF – is there any concern during COVID with using essential oils in a diffuser in resident rooms?	There have not seen any recommendations that specifically prohibit diffusers - the concern is with potential contamination (bacterial or fungal) in the water that could vaporize into the air. There are safer ways to implement aromatherapy. Try putting a drop or two of essential oils on a cotton ball.	Becky/Larissa
Could you clarify where we find the answer sections on the websites you just mentioned? where do you post the q&A ? on the WHCA site what do you select to find the Q&A?	Locations where the completed Q&A documents are posted. Typically every Wednesday for the previous week. Adult family home council: https://www.adultfamilyhomecouncil.org/covid-19-updates-best-resources/ WA LeadingAge: https://www.leadingagewa.org/ill_pubs_articles/copy-resources-preparing-your-community-staff-residents-and-families-for-the-coronavirus/ WHCA COVID - link to Q&A provider questions is in body of webpage: https://www.whca.org/washington-department-of-health-covid-19-qa-session/ < https://www.whca.org/covid-19-resources/	

Healthcare worker safety and well-being resources	Comagine Health created a resource page to address healthcare worker safety and well-being. https://comagine.org/program/covid19/health-care-worker-safety	Donna
SNF question - does anyone know if (2) users can be entering data in the COVID POC Antigen reporting module in NHSN at the same time?	Yes, users with grid cards can log into the module at same time	