**Covid-19 Safe Start Plan AFH Visitation Policy**

The Safe Start for Long-Term Care (LTC) plan from Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) with guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), established criteria for long-term care facilities to safely permit visitation.

* Facilities and homes are required to follow these Safe Start for LTC Recommendations and Requirements.
* The impact of COVID-19 vaccines on community transmission rates may allow for future changes to the recommendations and requirements in the Safe Start for LTC. For additional information, please refer to the [Safe Start for LTC](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ALTSA/covid-19/AFH-ALF-ESF%20Safe%20Start%20CDC%20Guidance.pdf) plan document.

**In order to accommodate safe visits for all residents, please contact \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at**

Provider/AFH representative

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to schedule your virtual, window, outdoor or indoor visit before connecting**

phone

**with the resident or arriving at the home.**

**Infection Prevention Protocols Required for Every In-person Visit**

* Screening of all who enter the facility/home for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions or observations about signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms
* Hand hygiene (use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred)
* Face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose), and use of eye protection, if appropriate
* Social distancing at least six feet between persons
* Cleaning and disinfecting high frequency touched surfaces in the home often, and designated visitation areas after each visit
* Appropriate staff use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**Remote Visits**

* Utilize technology to facilitate visits between residents and families, friends, spiritual community, healthcare workers and ombudsman
* Have staff available for support to ensure successful visit
* Any equipment shared among residents will be cleaned and disinfected between uses according to manufacturer guidelines

**Window Visits**

* Provide a first level room with a window with clear visibility to the resident’s visitor
* Ensure the grounds outside the first level windowed room are clear of hazards
* Provide a means of communication to the client, e.g., phone
* Visits will be monitored for infection prevention compliance
* Windows will remain closed for the duration of the visit

**Outdoor Visits**

* Our outdoor visitation hours are from ? to ?
* Outdoor visits are weather-permitting
* Adequate staff will be present to assist with outdoor transition of residents, and to assist with disinfection of any visitation areas as necessary
* Visits will be monitored for infection prevention compliance
* Our outdoor visits will occur ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (outdoor space that is accessible without having visitors walk through the home and allows for social distancing of at least 6 feet between visitor and resident.
* The home will be closed to visitation if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 inside the home.
* Residents under quarantine or observation are not eligible for outdoor visits

**Indoor Visits:**

Facilities should allow indoor visitations for all residents (regardless of vaccination status), except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission.

These scenarios for limiting indoor visitation include:

* *Unvaccinated residents*, if the facility COVID-19 county [transmission rate](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view|Washington|Risk|community_transmission_level) is HIGH and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
* Residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated until they have met the criteria to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions; or
* Residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

**Compassionate care and Essential Support Person visits should be permitted at all times**

* *Compassionate Care visits are allowed regardless of vaccination status*
  + End of life situations
  + A resident, who was living with their family before recently being admitted to a facility and is struggling with the change in environment and lack of physical family support.
  + A resident who is grieving the recent loss of a friend or family member.
  + A resident who needs cueing and encouragement with eating or drinking, previously provided by family and/or caregiver(s), is experiencing weight loss or dehydration.
  + A resident, who used to talk and interact with others, is experiencing emotional distress, seldom speaking, or crying more frequently (when the resident had rarely cried in the past).
* *Essential Support Person (ESP) visits are allowed regardless of vaccination status*
  + If the ESP visit occurs during the following situations, the ESP must be fully vaccinated or provide proof of a negative COVID test\*\* within the last 48 hours:
    - Visit with an unvaccinated resident when the county transmission rate is high and less than 70% of residents in the facility are vaccinated
    - If the resident is COVID positive o If the resident is in quarantine o If the facility or unit where the resident resides is in outbreak status

\*\*To meet the COVID testing requirement:

* + - For homes with testing capability this can be done at the facility using the rapid testing method
    - For homes without testing capability, the ESP will need to provide proof of a negative test within the last 48 hours
  + The ESP must wear all PPE required according to [DOH’s Recommendations for PPE in LTCFs](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/204-304-PPEContingencyStrategiesChart.pdf)
  + Refer to the Essential Support Person Policy for additional requirements for ESP visitation

**Visitation Will Be Denied If:**

* The visitor has any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 (i.e. cough, fever, etc.)
* The visitor is unwilling to wear appropriate PPE (mask worn over the nose and mouth at all times and eye protection, if needed)
* Steps a visitor can take to resume visits: [Contingency Strategies for PPE use during COVID-19 Pandemic – Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Long-Term Care Settings (wa.gov)](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/204-304-PPEContingencyStrategiesChart.pdf)
* Long-term Care Ombuds can be reached at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The Local Health Jurisdiction can be reached at: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Visitation Protocols:**

* Virtual and window visits are encouraged over in-person visits.
* Whenever possible, outdoor visits are preferred over indoor visits.
* Visitors will coordinate visitation type and time with the facility by calling or texting# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The facility will keep track of all visits/times
* Visitors must have their masks on prior to entering the premises. (if the visitor does not have a mask, the AFH will provide one).
* Upon arrival, staff will meet visitors outside (or threshold of door), inspect that each visitor is wearing a mask properly, take his/her temperature, and oversee proper hand hygiene with hand sanitizer. Guests will then proceed to answer the screening questions and sign the visitor’s log.
* Staff will then direct the visitors to the designated visitation area and remind them to remain 6 feet away from the resident at all times, and not remove the mask partially or entirely at any time.
* Resident should be prepared and ready for scheduled visit. Staff will encourage the resident to also wear a mask (if tolerated).

By signing below, you are acknowledging that we have discussed the Adult Family Home’s infection control and visitation policies.

X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Visitor’s Signature**