



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

**RCS MANAGEMENT BULLETIN**

**R20-013 – INFORMATION**  
**February 21, 2020**

- TO:** RCS Regional Administrators  
RCS Field Managers  
RCS Management Team  
RCS Staff
- FROM:** Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services
- SUBJECT:** **INFORMATION CONCERNING 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ILLNESS (2019-nCoV)**
- PURPOSE:** To inform staff about CDC issued recommendations for healthcare providers and healthcare facilities regarding 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
- BACKGROUND:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other countries, including the United States.
- WHAT'S NEW, CHANGED, OR CLARIFIED:**
- CDC has issued information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
    - Information includes general information about the virus, minimizing exposure, and infection prevention recommendations for healthcare facilities and healthcare providers. The website will be updated as new information is learned.
  - The Washington state Department of Health (DOH) has established a webpage and a hotline number for questions about the 2019-nCoV: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
  - Healthcare providers and healthcare facilities must report suspected or confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus to the Residential Care Services (RCS) Complaint Resolution Unit and to their local health jurisdiction. Information on how and when to report suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus to the local health jurisdiction: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions>.
  - For Nursing Homes and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a Quality, Safety and Oversight memorandum, QSO 20-09-ALL with information for healthcare providers and healthcare facilities about the Coronavirus.

- A letter will be sent to providers with resources and information about the coronavirus.

**ACTION:**

**Staff will:**

- Review the linked CDC guidelines for preventing exposure to and transmission of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
- Surveyors, licensors, investigators and case-mix staff will follow all 2019 Novel Coronavirus infection prevention guidelines if entering a facility where a person with a suspected or known case of coronavirus lives. Consult with your supervisor prior to entering the facility.

**RELATED REFERENCES:**

For Nursing Home and ICF/IID settings only, CMS memorandum [QSO 20-09-ALL](#)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. [Dear AFH Provider](#) – AL TSA: AFH #2020-005  
[Dear ALF Administrator](#) – AL TSA: ALF #2020-007  
[Dear CCRSS Provider](#) – AL TSA: CCRSS #2020-003  
[Dear ESF Provider](#) – AL TSA: ESF #2020-003



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Attachment 1 - ALF -

2. [Dear NH Administrator](#) – AL TSA: NH #2020-005  
[Dear ICF/IID Superintendent](#) – AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-002



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Attachment 2 - NH a

**CONTACTS:**

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