



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

August 6, 2020

**AL TSA: AFH #2020-037**  
**AL TSA: ALF #2020-037**  
**AL TSA: ESF #2020-028**  
**AL TSA: NH #2020-056**  
**AL TSA: ICF/IID #2020-029**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER VISITS**

Dear Provider/Superintendent/Administrator:

On March 16, 2020 the governor issued [Proclamation 20-16](#), which amended [Proclamation 20-06](#) to prohibit owners, administrators, operators, staff, contractors, and volunteers of a facility, including friends or family to visit a resident. On April 8, 2020 long term care providers were sent a Dear Provider Letter clarifying the prohibition on visitation does not apply to the following:

- End of life situations, including, but not limited to, families and hospice staff
- Visits by attorneys, administrative law judges, advocates or similar persons who represent a resident
- Vendors or volunteers who supply or work in a facility
- Health care teams such as doctors, behavioral health providers, and home health nurses so that care and service needs of residents are met
- Department of Social and Health Services staff, including staff from the Developmental Disabilities Administration and Aging and Long-Term Support Administration

We are aware some behavioral health providers are being prohibited from providing behavioral health services to the residents they serve. This is a reminder that under Proclamation 20-16, behavioral health services are essential and as long as the behavioral health provider passes the facilities health screening, they cannot be stopped from seeing their patients.

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

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

DSHS: *"Transforming Lives"*