

Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

Date: April 27, 2020
To: APD Adult Foster Home Providers
From: Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit
Topic: **Licensee Bi-monthly Call Meeting Minutes**

- As of today, 4/21 there are no Executive Orders (EO) in all counties other than Multnomah as we do not always have a count of their numbers. As of the date of the release of this alert (April 27) there are three EOs in place.
 - There are many questions around residents being able to go out into the community. Residents can go into the community, but make sure that they have information on how to keep themselves safe. You may offer little bottles of hand sanitizer, discuss hand washing, changing clothes upon returning to the AFH, wearing a mask, etc. We all have the ability to make choices for ourselves, even those that may seem to be contrary to your wishes for them as a licensee. Make sure the resident has access to information and understands the risks of exposure before going into the community. You may not restrict their access to the community as this is a resident rights violation.
 - There have been inquiries about AFH Providers having family members visit through a private part of the AFH. This is against the executive order and additionally it puts residents in harm's way. With any potential exposure or after community interaction, the licensee needs to make sure that they change their clothes and shower before entering the AFH side of the residence.
 - MyChart use on behalf of a resident could pose a potential breach of resident privacy, including a HIPAA violation. If you have a resident that
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cannot use MyChart, then you need to work with their guardian if they have one.

- ❖ They have two residents that they have been doing that for over a year and the doctors have recommended that they do. What should we do to get this allowed? SOQ would like to take this offline for now. We want to make sure that providers are protected in using this and will update with an official answer as soon as one is available.
- Question from a new licensee - I am having my children stay away from residents, I am bringing residents their meals in their rooms and am wearing a mask all the time, is that what I should be doing?
 - ❖ All of these steps are excellent measures in doing all you can to ensure resident and caregiver safety.
- There has been difficulty in finding PPE supplies. Can we get them from the licensing office give them to us?
 - ❖ We are having a difficult time getting the supplies but are doing our best getting them into local offices. Please continue to search for supplies through the usual resources available to you.
- Can SOQ write an emergency preparedness plan to give to providers?
 - ❖ This is largely a responsibility of the licensee as you each need to be able to respond to an emergency and operate your AFH with appropriate infection control standards. Since pandemic is new to all of us we are certainly willing to work with you and offer guidance as appropriate.
- What about testing for provider or elderly if we have a suspicion of COVID?
 - ❖ If you have a resident that is showing symptoms you need to contact their medical provider who will determine if testing is needed.
- Would everyone get tested in an AFH?
 - ❖ That will be based upon many factors. That is up to medical providers and depends on how they could manage the AFH. There are too many variables to be able to give a definite direction of what you might be able to expect.

- What about legal responsibilities without having equipment/ PPE, information that is up to date, etc. We fear we are going to be held legally responsible.
 - ❖ Everyone is facing the same shortage and doing what can be done to keep people safe. This is a virus that was not created through provider neglect. Even if a case is confirmed in your AFH it does not mean it is because you could have avoided the exposure. Please continue to take all actions you are able in an effort to keep everyone safe. Ensure handwashing protocols are followed and do all you can to minimize community exposure when possible.

 - There are things that we are reading, I want to confirm. We were under the assumption that every time an employee comes in, we need to take their temperature & log it.
 - ❖ Yes, you can do that and there should be regular screening taking place in the AFH. Anyone entering the AFH should be subject to screening in order to ensure resident safety.

 - People are NOT reading the provider alerts. Something needs to come out to tell providers that they need to follow these guidelines.
 - ❖ The provider alert system is our system for communicating with providers. The dilemma here is that we would use this same system to create an alert about alerts meaning we are still only reaching the same people. As licensee's and professionals, it is up to each of you to be certain you are reading the most current information from DHS and SOQ. You may also access them through our website:
<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/PROVIDERS-PARTNERS/LICENSING/APD-AFH/Pages/Alerts.aspx>

 - What about taking residents temperatures every day?
 - ❖ Yes, this is an acceptable practice as per CDC recommendations.

 - Screening assessment form, there is nowhere on the form for the temperature.
 - ❖ We can look at adding a space to the form for temperature or you can add it to the notes.
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- We gave subscription information. Visit our [website](#) or email APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us
- What about continuing education credits during this time with staffing challenges, etc.?
 - ❖ Work with your licensor and communicate with them about any challenges you are having. They are there to be a resource for you but can't help if they don't understand the issues you are facing.
- We have spent \$3500 on items related to supplies for our AFH for COVID-19. How is this going to be addressed in AFH? They gave an increase to other settings.
 - ❖ NF & Assisted living got their increase through the legislature but AFH rates are negotiated through SEIU. There is no rate change currently for AFH providers at this time.
- Is something being done at all for AFH or is it just at a standstill?
 - ❖ You are welcome to contact the union and ask about any current news or developments. As any agreements are made, SOQ will issue a provider alert.
- I did see on an email that we don't have to submit renewal background checks. Can I still do that & pay anyway? This question was specific to Multnomah County - Annie answered and asked her to contact their office for specifics related to their county.

Closing Note: We'd like to remind everyone to subscribe to our AFH Provider Alert mailing list to stay updated and informed. You can sign up on our website by clicking [here](#) or by emailing APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us