

Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

Date: April 22, 2021
To: APD Adult Foster Home Providers
From: Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit
Topic: **Licensee Call Q&A - December 2020 & February 2021**

This Q&A covers questions brought forth during our December 15, 2020, and the February 23, 2021, Licensee conference calls. We apologize for the delay and any inconvenience as a result of not getting this information out timely. We are currently working on the Q&A for the Licensee call we had last week (April 20, 2021) so please keep an eye out for that communication in the coming weeks. Our next Licensee call will be held on June 15, 2021, we look forward to seeing you there.

Q&A - December 15, 2020

- 1. Question:** We have a new potential resident living in assisted living in WA state who was recently diagnosed with COVID-19. What are the criteria required to accept this resident in our facility besides a negative test?

Answer: A negative test is not required for new admissions, even with someone that was previously positive with COVID-19. The local public health agency and the potential resident's health care provider can help to establish a safe timeline for resident moves. Asking the resident to self-isolate is also acceptable as it allows the resident to continue to recover while ensuring there is limited risk of exposure with the residents currently living in your AFH.

- 2. Question:** What if somebody is admitted already, goes out with symptoms to the hospital, is found to be COVID positive? Why then are we required to bring them back into the home and put everybody else at risk?

Answer: When a resident is found to be positive while in the hospital it is important, they be allowed to return to their home assuming a safe readmission can be made. A safe readmission means there needs to be

dedicated caregivers, the ability to self-isolate and the resident cannot be in a shared room with someone that is negative. If these criteria are not able to be met alternative placements would be sought so the resident could recover safely and without risk to other residents.

- 3. Question:** Where would the positive COVID residents go? Are there COVID approved AFHs?

Answer: We do have dedicated care settings that specialize in the care and recovery of COVID positive residents.

- 4. Question:** If you don't have the staff to take care of the COVID and non-COVID patients, what's the process?

Answer: If dedicated staff are not an option, then placement of the positive resident into one of the COVID recovery centers would be a possible option.

- 5. Question:** Do I have to sign up for my residents get a Covid-19 vaccine?

Answer: There are many avenues through which we are attempting to get vaccines to those that desire them. Licensors are making regular calls in order to assess vaccination needs. Please let them know what your needs are so we can arrange an option that will best fit your AFH.

- 6. Question:** Is there a deadline to get residents and licensees vaccinated?

Answer: There is no deadline for vaccinations, and we recognize that the rollout to all AFHs in Oregon will take some time.

- 7. Question:** Is wearing a mask in AFHs recommended or required?

Answer: Wearing a mask in an AFH is required for any caregivers that do not live in the AFH.

- 8. Question:** Is there an update on the RAC meetings?

Answer: We are currently in legislative session and rule updates are on hold until legislation is complete. This will allow us to open the rules once and handle all items on the rule's agenda. More updates will be coming soon.

Q&A February 23, 2021

1. **Question:** Can you differentiate between Hospice, end-of-life, and compassionate care visits in your FAQ? I know it is extra work, especially now that in-person visits are allowed in many counties, but I think it would be helpful.

Answer: There is little difference between the three as all should require there be extra allowances and support for visitation. The most critical thing to note is that a resident does not have to be actively dying in order to receive compassionate care visitation.

2. **Question:** Can you include something stating that indoor visitation has to be allowed, if the county risk level allows it, and a provider cannot arbitrarily limit visits beyond the Dec 3 guidance?

Answer: This is correct and if visitation is not being supported it could result in licensing violations being issued. The Department recognizes that this has been an incredibly challenging year and the extreme dedication of AFH providers does not go unnoticed. That said, we want to be supportive of provider concerns but also need to recognize the emotional burden of not seeing loved ones for an extended period. We are doing all that can be done to ensure re-opening is gradual and reflective of the unique characteristics of each county.

3. **Question:** Are the rules going to change after residents will get both doses? I'm talking about rules about visitation policy or residents able to go out with family, at restaurant, hairdresser etc.

Answer: Yes, there are policy updates being developed and we hope to have them released very soon. Again, to ensure this re-opening is as safe as possible we are being very careful as new policies are released so we minimize potential risks.

4. **Question:** If you don't have the staff to take care of the COVID and non-COVID patients, what's the process?

Answer: If there is a COVID positive resident in your AFH and dedicated caregiving is not possible we will likely need to consider placing the resident in a COVID recover unit while they recover.

5. **Question:** Could you say again what is needed in terms of a visitor log? What info is required to document?

Answer: The format and questions required in the visitors' log can be found here: [March 16, 2020 Provider alert](#)

6. **Question:** We were told to have vaccine for our seniors around Feb 17 but so far, we did not have any information.

Answer: Vaccine rollout is still underway. At this time, if your assigned vaccine partner was either Walgreen's or CVS and you have not heard from them, please let your licensor know because we will need to get you assigned to a new partner.

7. **Question:** The rule is: 2 visitors at the time for a resident, that means same resident can have 2 visitors at 10-10:30 than other 2 visitors 11-11:30 and so on. is it necessary for CG to "supervise visits " to make sure visitors and resident have their mask on at all time and keep the 6 ft. distance?

Answer: It is not an expectation that you as the licensee or your caregivers will hover over the visit in order to ensure infection control procedures are being honored.

8. **Question:** Are visitors allowed to have a private visit with the resident in their room and with the door closed?

Answer: Yes. A resident can have a private visit with their loved one.

9. **Question:** Does licensing need to have a compassionate care visitation plan/written policy as with the outdoor visitation policies?

Answer: No. There is not a requirement that the policy be written out or submitted to your licensor. We do ask that you ensure infection control practices are followed and the visitor limits their walking path within the AFH.

10. **Question:** When will Licensors begin re-licensing visits?

Answer: The plan is to move forward with licensing visits and begin in-person monitoring for all counties that are not in extreme risk. The licensors have processes in place that are dependent on [county positivity](#) rates in order to begin renewal processes while also minimizing risk to all parties.

11. **Question:** Just to clarify, will providers retain their existing license renewal dates?

Answer: The Department is moving forward with a plan for license renewal and yes, your renewal dates will remain the same. The Department will not

be issuing renewals for the previous year during COVID but instead will be renewing for the 2021-22 license year.

12. Question: Are we allowed to hire a new caregiver without waiting for the background check?

Answer: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic our current policy does allow a new caregiver to work without direct supervision with a [preliminary background check approval](#). This does not mean it is acceptable to hire the caregiver and not submit a background check at all.

13. Question: What is going on with EQC? I was told the class was put on hold.

Answer: If a class was put on hold, you'll want to reach out to the instructor and get clarification on when their schedule will resume. Classes are still being held, please click the following link for a list of current instructors: [Find an EQC course](#)

14. Question: Is it possible to get an update on visitation rules and regulations with Bullet points to make it simple.

Answer: This is something we can look at when the format would make sense.

For further questions please contact the Adult Foster Home Program at APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us