

## Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

### Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

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**Date:** May 13, 2021  
**To:** APD Adult Foster Home Providers  
**From:** Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit  
**Topic:** **Licensee Bi-monthly Call Q&A April 20, 2021**

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Thank you to all who were able to attend our provider call on April 20, 2021. Below you will see the questions noted during the call as well as the links to related provider alerts. Our next call is scheduled for June 15, 2021 – we look forward to talking with you then.

### Visitation

**Do adult foster home (AFH) visitors need to wear masks at all times regardless of being vaccinated? Is social distancing required with family members and residents if both parties are vaccinated?**

- Yes, masks are required regardless of vaccination status. This may change in the future as vaccination rates increase but for now please continue with personal protective equipment (PPE) and appropriate infection control.

**Do child visitors need to wear masks at all times if over the age of 5?**

- Yes, children are also required to wear a mask.

**Is there a limitation on the number of visitors a resident has in a day? Are visitors still limited to two at a time for indoor visits?**

- Visitation can be limited to 2 at a time for indoor visitation due to the availability of space in an AFH setting. There is no limit on the number of visitors in a day though we encourage AFH providers to be mindful of space limitations and ensure the core principles of infection control and physical distancing can be maintained. Additionally, special allowances should be made for compassionate care visits and residents at end of life.

**What about outdoor visits? Are we supposed to tell our visitors and residents to wear a mask even when outside? Some providers choose not to be the mask or social distance police, so how would you go about these situations?**

- We do not expect that providers will hover over the residents and their visitors in order to ensure mask compliance. Please ensure appropriate screening takes place and wandering around the AFH is limited in order to reduce the possibility of exposure.

**This seems all directed at the residents. Are we the providers allowed indoor visitors, like if my daughter and family of 4 come from out of town, are they allowed indoors to visit and for how long can they stay and visit?**

- The same practices would apply for all of those living with the AFH. Screening, infection control, PPE and limits on wandering the AFH apply to all of those within the AFH.

**We should still not have any overlapping visits including medical, correct?**

- Medical providers need to be able to have access to their residents in order to provide necessary care. If this access results in some overlap this is acceptable provided the medical professionals will not interfere with one another during their visit.

## **Infection Control**

**Can I ask residents to stay out of the kitchen area because they are not practicing safe COVID protocol while outside the home?**

- It is reasonable to limit foot traffic in the kitchen when preparing meals in order to reduce the possibility of contamination however this does not mean residents can be prevented from accessing snacks and beverages. Access to food and snack is a resident right and they should not be prevented from accessing food between mealtimes.

## **Vaccines**

**Do staff need to wear masks at all times regardless of being vaccinated while working? Do caregivers need to wear masks even when cooking or just during direct care?**

- Yes, staff are still required to wear a mask in spite of vaccination status. The current AFH guidance requires that masks be worn by all caregiver not living in the AFH and this would include when cooking.

**What do we do if residents who previously rejected the vaccine now wish to get a vaccine?**

- You can reach out to the pharmacy partner you worked with previously. Other options include local public health, drive-up vaccines clinics and the resident's primary care provider.

**What should Licensee's do when family members disagree on whether or not a resident should get a vaccine?**

- This is a complicated question because it first must be determined if those family members have the ability to make these decisions on behalf of the resident. If the resident is their own decision maker, it is their decision to make regardless of family wishes. If the resident has a legal guardian, this individual may make this determination on the resident's behalf. The long-term care ombudsman can be a helpful advocate in ensuring resident wishes are honored. Additionally, if family members wish to have more information about the vaccines, we have materials on vaccine hesitancy that can be found here: [Vaccine Information](#)

**Two of my residents refused to take the vaccine and three of them are done, is the vaccine mandatory?**

- No, the vaccine is not mandatory for residents, licensees, or caregivers.

If you have additional questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccinations please email: [SOQ.LTCinfo@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:SOQ.LTCinfo@dhsosha.state.or.us)

**Misc. Questions**

**Do you have any info about background checks and the Covid-19 variance? Do licensee's and household members not need to worry about renewing expired background checks until 01/2022? This is what it seems to say on the ORCHARDS site.**

- On ORCHARDS on the front page it says this on 3/22/2021 --- As you may know, the COVID-19 variances have been updated: there will be **no background rechecks for portable request types until after January 1, 2022** for applications that are Approved, Approved with Variance or Approved with Restriction for any SI's who currently have applications in ORCHARDS.
- This is specific to portable background checks only and other background checks should be run in accordance with rule.

**Is there an EQC update?**

- Ensuring Quality Care is a required course for licensees, administrators, resident managers, and shift caregivers. We have updated the curriculum and are excited about these changes. Here is the link to currently available classes: [EQC Classes](#)

**Is there any specific period of time providers should wait for Residents to appeal if residents are given immediate move notice? How long do we hold on to the room?**

- With a less than 30-day move-out notice a resident or their representative has 7 days to request a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the bed must be held until a final determination has been made by the courts.

If you have additional questions or topic requests for our June call, please email [APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us)