

VACCINATION

Vaccinations will be tiered according to priorities laid out by the federal government and agreed to by the state. Phase 1 is the first group to be vaccinated and will consist of healthcare workers, including home care aides, health home aides and long-term care facility residents and staff.

Over 2,600 long-term care facilities registered into a federal vaccination program that contracts with Walgreens and CVS pharmacies who will administer the vaccinations.

The Department of Health (DOH) and the local health jurisdictions are working with facilities that did not register for this federal program to assist them with vaccination.

The first COVID-19 vaccinations have begun, but it is critical that people continue taking measures to prevent the spread of the virus. Visit the [DOH website](#) to learn more about the vaccine.

LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) FACILITY VISITATION



Governor Inslee issued several emergency proclamations. One of which reduces community transmission in our long-term care facilities by putting limitations on visitation.



We have a long-term care facilities COVID-19 advisory committee and within that committee we have created workable amendments to visitation restrictions that will allow for more comfortable visitation options.



3 work groups met to update and revise the LTC Safe Start requirement and recommendation documents for each facility and agency type. Updated visitation guidance will be released after the latest Governor restriction is lifted.

MOBILE RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS

In response to case increase in Washington we launched Rapid Response Teams consisting of healthcare professionals (RN, LPN, CNA) from outside of Washington. These teams were deployed to facilities to help ensure healthcare staff were available in long-term care facilities and agencies.

- These teams are intended to be on-site short-term (a week at a time) but if they are still necessary they will re-deploy for additional time on-site.
- There is no cost to the facility or agency to use the Rapid Response Teams – we are using CARES Act funding through the end of December.
- The first Rapid Response Team arrived in the Seattle area on December 4, received their PPE and required fit testing and deployed to their first location on December 6.

COVID-19 FACILITIES

These units are physically separated from the general population, are accessed by a separate entrance, and are staffed by dedicated personnel. A full list of current COVID-19 facilities is available [HERE](#).

Nine nursing facilities have contracted with DSHS to establish dedicated COVID-19 care units.

TRANSITIONAL CARE CENTER OF SEATTLE

The Department purchased the previous Paramount nursing facility, now known as Transitional Care Center of Seattle to alleviate acute care hospital volumes of non-COVID patients. This facility admits patients from acute care hospitals that are difficult to transition.