



SPECIAL NOTICE 20-011

DATE: March 13, 2020

TO: All Personnel

FROM: Michael R. Charter – Division Chief of EMS

RESPONSES TO NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTING LIVING FACILITIES

Department Personnel,

Washington Governor Inslee issued new rules on March 10, 2020 concerning visitors, screening, and precautionary measures in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. These rules were previously in place for King/Snohomish/Pierce counties, but are now in effect for the entire state.

- Visitors must be adults and the visit must take place in the resident's room.
- All visitors must follow COVID-19 screening and follow reasonable precautionary measures. Precautionary measures include, but are not limited to, wearing personal protective equipment, social distancing, or visiting in designated locations.
- All visitors must sign into a visitor's log. Logs must be retained for 30 days.
- Employees/volunteers must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms each shift.
- People who live in nursing homes or assisted living facilities and who test positive for COVID-19 must be isolated away from other people.
- Owners, operators, staff and volunteers are prohibited from disclosing protected and confidential health information, except as otherwise provided by law or with consent.

We have already had crews stopped upon entry for EMS calls at several facilities and requested to sign in, provide identification, and have temperatures taken. We are working on a process within the region to expedite entry for emergent calls. Until then, the following guidelines apply:

- Comply with the requests of the facilities as these requirements are being placed on them by their regulatory authorities.
- Please have your department ID in your possession while on duty.
- If the facility will accommodate for emergent incidents:
 - Consider leaving one crew member behind to provide information to the staff as the rest of the crew makes patient contact (likely after having temperature taken).
 - Or, provide the information at the conclusion of the incident.

Michael R. Charter – Division Chief of EMS