

Dec. 9, 2020

Pierce County Long Term Care Facilities:

We recommend long term care facilities (LTCFs) follow Phase 1 of the state's [Long Term Care Safe Start Plan](#) by Dec. 14, 2020. This includes:

- Skilled nursing facilities.
- Assisted living facilities.
- Adult family homes.
- Enhanced service facilities.
- Intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Certified community residential services and support.

Pierce County continues to have increased COVID-19 outbreaks and cases per outbreak in this sector. Currently, we have 11 active outbreaks in LTCFs with more than 10 cases each. This count is likely an underestimate as data for this week is not complete.

The rising cases in LTCFs are tied to the increasing incidence in the community. Unfortunately, we do not believe this trend will slow in the immediate future. The Phase 1 Safe Start Plan guidance can:

- Help protect residents and staff providing essential care and support.
- Limit transmission within LTCFs and our healthcare system.

We realize these restrictions may be difficult for residents, families and staff. We will continue to actively monitor the situation and adjust COVID-19 prevention guidance while balancing the risk and benefits these restrictions have on LTCF residents and their families.

Questions? Call (253) 649-6412.

Sincerely,



Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH
Director of Health