

**WSR 22-07-004
EMERGENCY RULES
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

[Filed March 3, 2022, 8:03 a.m., effective March 6, 2022]

Effective Date of Rule: March 6, 2022.

Purpose: The department is extending the suspension of the rules listed below to ensure long-term care facilities and providers are not significantly impeded during the hiring process due to an inability to access required tuberculosis (TB) testing as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic [pandemic]. Clinics providing TB testing continue to be short of staff and have limited availability throughout the state. These clinics are unable to provide the TB testing required as a part of the hiring process in many long-term care programs. These emergency rules will help increase the number of long-term care workers necessary to provide essential services for some of Washington's most vulnerable residents.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Repealing WAC 388-76-10265, 388-76-10285, 388-78A-2484 and 388-107-0490; and amending WAC 388-76-10290(1), 388-78A-2480(1), 388-78A-2485(1), 388-101D-0650(1), 388-101D-0660(3), and 388-107-0460(1).

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 70.128.040, 71A.12.030; chapters 18.20 and 70.97 RCW.

Other Authority: Chapters 70.128, 71A.12, and 74.34 RCW.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: The continued threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations is significant, especially for those receiving long-term care services in their homes and congregate settings, such as long-term care facilities. While vaccinations are being distributed, this alone has not yet significantly improved staffing availability in long-term care facilities. Although the state has implemented a phased reopening plan, clinics providing TB testing continue to be short of staff and have limited availability throughout the state partially due to higher than normal requests for services related to overdue standard screening tests such as TB. Adult family homes and many assisted living facilities are dependent upon community services to provide TB testing. These clinics are unable to meet the demand for testing required as a part of the hiring process in many long-term care programs. This circumstance has exacerbated the demand for long-term care workers when the pandemic has already significantly reduced the availability of long-term care workers in the state.

Ongoing communication with stakeholders indicates a need to continue these suspended rules as the COVID[-19] pandemic is still impacting the ability of long-term care facilities to meet these requirements. With the rise in COVID[-19] testing, the ability to get the antigen tests for TB has been very limited in availability as labs are trying to meet testing demands for COVID[-19]. Many assisted living [facilities] do not have the nurses on staff available to perform the TB skin testing in-house currently. The department filed a CR-101 Preproposal under WSR 20-16-069.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 6, Repealed 4.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 6, Repealed 4.

Date Adopted: March 2, 2022.

Katherine I. Vasquez
Rules Coordinator

SHS-4796.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 10-03-064, filed 1/15/10, effective 2/15/10)

WAC 388-76-10290 Tuberculosis—Positive test result. When there is a positive result to tuberculosis skin or blood testing the adult family home must:

- (1) ~~((Ensure that the person has a chest X-ray within seven days; (2)))~~ Ensure each resident or employee with a positive test result is evaluated for signs and symptoms of tuberculosis; and
~~((3))~~ (2) Follow the recommendation of the person's health care provider.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 70.128.040. WSR 10-03-064, § 388-76-10290, filed 1/15/10, effective 2/15/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.128.040 and chapters 70.128 and 74.34 RCW. WSR 07-21-080, § 388-76-10290, filed 10/16/07, effective 1/1/08.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-13-063, filed 6/18/13, effective 7/19/13)

WAC 388-78A-2480 Tuberculosis—Testing—Required. ~~((1) The assisted living facility must develop and implement a system to ensure each staff person is screened for tuberculosis within three days of employment.~~

~~(2))~~ For purposes of WAC 388-78A-2481 through 388-78A-2489, "staff person" means any assisted living facility employee or temporary employee of the assisted living facility, excluding volunteers and contractors.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.20 RCW. WSR 13-13-063, § 388-78A-2480, filed 6/18/13, effective 7/19/13; WSR 10-03-066, §

388-78A-2480, filed 1/15/10, effective 2/15/10. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.090. WSR 06-24-073, § 388-78A-2480, filed 12/4/06, effective 1/4/07; WSR 06-01-047, § 388-78A-2480, filed 12/15/05, effective 1/15/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.20.090 (2004 c 142 § 19) and chapter 18.20 RCW. WSR 04-16-065, § 388-78A-2480, filed 7/30/04, effective 9/1/04.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-13-063, filed 6/18/13, effective 7/19/13)

WAC 388-78A-2485 Tuberculosis—Positive test result. When there is a positive result to tuberculosis skin or blood testing the assisted living facility must:

~~(1) ((Ensure that the staff person has a chest X-ray within seven days;~~

~~(2)))~~ Ensure each resident or staff person with a positive test result is evaluated for signs and symptoms of tuberculosis; and

~~((3)))~~ (2) Follow the recommendation of the resident or staff person's health care provider.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 18.20 RCW. WSR 13-13-063, § 388-78A-2485, filed 6/18/13, effective 7/19/13; WSR 10-03-066, § 388-78A-2485, filed 1/15/10, effective 2/15/10.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-23-101, filed 11/20/18, effective 1/1/19)

WAC 388-101D-0650 What must a group training home do to detect and manage tuberculosis? To detect and manage tuberculosis, a group training home must:

~~(1) ((Ensure each employee has a tuberculin test no more than three days after beginning to work with clients unless otherwise exempt under this chapter;~~

~~(2)))~~ Implement policies and procedures that comply with tuberculosis standards set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and applicable state laws;

~~((3)))~~ (2) Comply with the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) standards for respiratory protection; and

~~((4)))~~ (3) Comply with chapter 296-842 WAC requirements to protect the health and safety of clients who may come into contact with people who have infectious tuberculosis.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 71A.12.030, 71A.12.120, 71A.12.040 and 71A.22.010. WSR 18-23-101, § 388-101D-0650, filed 11/20/18, effective 1/1/19.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 18-23-101, filed 11/20/18, effective 1/1/19)

WAC 388-101D-0660 When is a group training home employee not required to complete a tuberculin test? (1) A group training home employee is not required to complete a tuberculin test if the employee:

- (a) Has documentation of an FDA-approved tuberculin test with negative results from within the last twelve months;
- (b) Has documentation of a positive FDA-approved tuberculin test with documented evidence of:
 - (i) Adequate therapy for active disease; or
 - (ii) Completion of treatment for latent tuberculosis infection preventive therapy;
- (c) Self-reports a history of positive test results under subsection (2) or (3) of this section.

(2) If a group training home employee self-reports a history of positive test results with chest X-ray results from the last twelve months, the employee must:

- (a) Provide a copy of the normal X-ray results to the group training home; and
 - (b) Be evaluated for signs and symptoms of tuberculosis.
- ~~(3) ((If a group training home employee self-reports a history of positive test results without chest X-ray results, the employee must:~~
- ~~(a) Be referred to a medical provider;~~
 - ~~(b) Complete a chest X-ray within seven days; and~~
 - ~~(c) Be cleared by a medical professional before returning to work if the X-ray is abnormal and consistent with tuberculosis.~~

~~(4))~~ A group training home volunteer working less than four hours a month is exempt from tuberculin test requirements.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 71A.12.030, 71A.12.120, 71A.12.040 and 71A.22.010. WSR 18-23-101, § 388-101D-0660, filed 11/20/18, effective 1/1/19.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 14-19-071, filed 9/12/14, effective 10/13/14)

WAC 388-107-0460 Tuberculosis (TB)—Testing—Required. The enhanced services facility must:

- ~~((1) Develop and implement a system to ensure staff have TB testing upon employment or starting service; and~~
- ~~(2))~~ Ensure that staff have an annual risk assessment completed using the Washington state department of health approved criteria.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.97 RCW. WSR 14-19-071, § 388-107-0460, filed 9/12/14, effective 10/13/14.]

REPEALER

The following sections of the Washington Administrative Code are repealed:

WAC 388-76-10265 Tuberculosis—Testing—Required.

WAC 388-76-10285 Tuberculosis—Two step skin testing.
WAC 388-78A-2484 Tuberculosis—Two step skin testing.
WAC 388-107-0490 Tuberculosis (TB)—Two-step skin testing.