

Adult Care Home Program Newsletter

January 2021

Program Supervisor's Letter

Dear Providers,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. As we move into 2021, we wanted to let providers know that the ACHP is continuing with video-based virtual inspections for the time being. We will modify this protocol as the county's assigned level of risk changes. See the section titled, "COVID-19 Visitation Updates," for more information.

While COVID-19 continues to impact day to day operations in adult care homes, we are aware that daily life goes on and that providers are challenged to find ways to enrich the lives of their residents amid the pandemic. As with last month's newsletter, we have included a section titled, "Virtual Resources for Well-Being," where you can find links to online resources for the body, mind, and spirit. Take a moment to explore.

And last but not least, we wanted to let providers know that Felicia Nelson, ACHP's Program Manager, has extended her leave. We expect her to return March 25th. Multnomah County has hired Margaret Semple to fill in until that time. Margaret previously worked with the ACHP in 2018 and 2019 so she is knowledgeable about the program. Originally trained as an attorney, Margaret has extensive experience working in human services with a variety of vulnerable populations. She will be a real asset to the program and we are very lucky to have her!

Sincerely,
Annie Neal, ACHP Program Supervisor

Just Ask

Question: When will providers get access to the COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: The ACHP has submitted contact information for all licensed Adult Care Homes to the Multnomah County Health Department. Homes will be contacted when more information is available.

Question: What is the Room & Board rate for Medicaid-funded services in 2021?

Answer: The Room & Board payment for people receiving Medicaid-funded services increased to \$617 effective January 1, 2021.

Question: What elements should be included in a floor plan?

Answer: Floor plans must include: location and size of all rooms; indication of which rooms are to be resident bedrooms and which are to be provider, day care, or room and board tenant bedrooms; doors and windows; wheelchair ramps; smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms; fire extinguishers; designated smoking areas; exit location; planned evacuation routes; and the initial and final points of safety.

Question: What do I need to do to complete the online portion of the Background Check Process?

Answer: Once the Background Check form or Caregiver Application is submitted, the applicant will receive an email from the state with instructions on how to login to and complete the state's online portion of the background check. If not completed within 21 days of receipt, the applicant will need to reapply.

Virtual Resources for Well-Being

Have you borrowed a Samsung tablet yet? There are lots of virtual activities and resources that residents can access online. If you don't have a device available, you can borrow one from the ACHP! Call us at 503-988-3000 or click:

<https://multco.us/adult-care-home-information/achp-electronic-device-borrowing-program>

Here are just a few of the online resources providers and residents can explore:

Multnomah County Library - The Multnomah County Library offers a number of online or streaming resources. Some require a library card. If you don't have a card, click here:

<https://multcolib.org/get-library-card>.

- Events Calendar: <https://multcolib.org/events>
- Magazines: <https://multcolib.overdrive.com/library/magazines>
- Music: <https://librarymusicproject.com/>
- Movies: <https://multcolib.org/resource/kanopy>

Heritage Daily - Take a virtual tour of five historical sites from across the globe with Google's interactive trek experiences

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/03/5-virtual-tours-of-historical-sites/126924>

Hollywood Senior Center - The center is closed for in-person events but they maintain a calendar of activities that can be accessed online.

<http://hollywoodseniorcenter.org/events-calendar/>

Moth Stories - True stories, as remembered by the storyteller, and told live. Listen to a library of stories going back to 1997.

<https://themoth.org/stories>

Senior Recreation - Portland Parks and Recreation - If you're on FaceBook, check out Senior Recreation's page. It's full of activities and events for seniors and everyone else.

<https://www.facebook.com/PortlandParksSeniorRecreation/>

COVID-19 Visitation Updates

Related to ACH visitation and to ACHP licensing visits, the ACHP will continue to follow the state's published restrictions for long-term care facilities. These restrictions are guided by the state's published risk level. The current risk level can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.oregon.gov/Pages/living-with-covid-19.aspx#countystatus>. (Select "Multnomah County," and "Long-Term Care" within dropdowns.)

Visitor Policy descriptions related to each risk level and other visitation-related requirements can be found here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/PROVIDERS-PARTNERS/LICENSING/APD-AFH/Alerts/2020-1203%20AFH%20Limited%20COVID-19%20Indoor%20Visitation%20Policy.pdf>

- **Extreme Risk** - Only essential persons including compassionate care visits; No personal/family visitors; Outdoor visitors with limited numbers and physical distancing
- **Other Risk Levels (Lower-High)** - Essential persons and personal visitors permitted - including family and close personal relationships, limited to 2 at a time

Currently, Multnomah County is in the "Extreme Risk" category. Essential visitors, including medical and compassionate care visits are still allowed with screening and use of PPE. All other visitation is restricted to outdoor only, with appropriate precautions. This includes visitors for operators, caregivers, and residents.

Licensing visits: The ACHP will continue our current practice of doing "essential" licensing visits in person. These are effectively limited to investigating health and safety concerns in a home and to new home inspections in vacant homes. Renewal inspections will continue to be conducted remotely through use of a video connection between the operator and licensor.

Training, Testing, and Events

ACHP Orientation and Record Keeping B are offered online via Google Meet but all other ACHP training remains suspended. Sign up by calling 503-988-3000 or by emailing advsd.adult.carehomeprogram@multco.us

Orientation - Required for all Operators and Resident Managers before submitting an application.

Times: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm (Sign-on 8:45 am)

Cost: \$55

Dates: 3/31/21 (Jan & Feb sessions are full)

Record Keeping Part B, Medication Mgmt

Times: 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (Sign-on 1:25 pm)
(Tech support for training starts at 1:10 pm)

Cost: \$30 for Operators & Resident Managers

Dates: Thurs 1/28/21 or Thurs 2/25/21

Testing: Due to Multnomah County's current risk level, ACHP testing continues to be limited. For Operators with urgent staffing needs who have prospective caregivers waiting for a qualifying test, contact Alex at (503) 988-3000 to request testing. Capacity is limited. Everyone will be screened. Masks are required.

Tri-County Public Health officials host free webinars for group living facilities every other Wednesday, at 3:00 pm via Zoom.

Meeting links, upcoming topics and past recorded sessions are available here:

<https://multco.us/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-webinar-series-group-living-facilities>.

Oregon Health Authority's 4-part series addressing COVID-19 infection identification and control, COVID and influenza, PPE, and connection during COVID. Click "join the meeting" then "Join the event" for recordings.

<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/PROVIDERS-PARTNERS/LICENSING/AdminAlerts/NF-20-147%20-%20OHA%20Infections%20Program%20Webinar%20Series.pdf>

Background Check Recertifications

All currently approved Providers (Operators, Resident Managers, and Caregivers), Housekeepers, Property Maintenance Staff, and Volunteers whose background checks were set to expire in 2021 will now be extended to 2022. ACHP will be sending updated approval letters via email in order of expiration date. Individuals in these roles are not required to submit a renewal background check and do not need to contact the ACHP at this time.

Background checks for Household Members and Occupants will not be extended.

Background check requests for these roles continue to be due annually. Fingerprint requirements continue to be waived and are not required at this time.

Please make note, ACHP also continues to require all Operators, Resident Managers and Caregivers to submit role renewal applications annually. These applications are separate from background check request forms.

For caregivers, please complete a Caregiver Application Form

(<https://multco.us/file/34831/download>) and submit it along with the \$10 fee by the role expiration date.

For New Caregivers, Resident Managers and Shift Managers, we are working hard to get approvals out as soon as possible. We are giving preliminary approvals on new background checks. For APD caregivers, we require proof of Pre-Service Dementia training; and for DD caregivers, we require completion and submission of page 3 of the DD Basic Training Manual. DD caregivers with temporary approval during this time are still required to take and pass the DD Qualifying Test once testing resumes. Approvals and preliminary approvals are usually processed within 2 business days if all requirements are submitted.



Department of County Human Services

M198

Multnomah County Oregon
Department of County Human Services
Adult Care Home Program
421 SW Oak St, Suite 650
Portland OR 97204

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND OR
PERMIT NO
5522