

9-29-2020

Dear Alternative Living Provider:

DDA residential providers received a letter from DSHS about the Department of Health (DOH) offering COVID-19 testing to all Supported Living, Group Training Home, Group Home, Companion Home, and Alternative Living (AL) clients, staff, and others who live in the home. To clarify, testing will be available for both AL clients and providers receiving services in this setting.

Similar to other long-term care settings, some individuals receiving these services are at risk for more severe outcomes than others are if they become infected with COVID-19. An understanding of asymptomatic infections will help inform prevention and control efforts to limit disease transmission.

The information will also help direct recommendations for ongoing testing. AL providers will be able to perform testing if a client or they develop symptoms; or in response to an outbreak.

DOH recommends offering tests for all residential providers by **October 31, 2020**. However, if an AL provider (or a client they support) was tested on or after July 1, 2020, they are exempt from this request.

Please note that all information that relates to residential providers around testing include Alternative Living providers.

For more information, please contact me at
Olga.Lutsyk@dshs.wa.gov or 360.764.6155. or visit www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/

Sincerely,



Olga Lutsyk
DDA Program Manager
DSHS DDA Administration
360-764-6155, Olga.Lutsyk@dshs.wa.gov