

**AMENDED SECTION**

**WAC 388-829-0085**

**How many hours of continuing education must DDA community residential staff complete each year?**

- (1) Effective January 1, 2016, direct support professionals must complete 12 hours of continuing education (CE) each year, except in the calendar year they complete the one-time basic training requirement.
- (2) A direct support professional who is not credentialed through the department of health (DOH) must complete their CE by the end of the calendar year.
- (3) A direct support professional must complete DOH-required CE (such as home care aide certification) by their birth date each year.
- (4) A direct support professional employed during the COVID-19 public health emergency must complete:
- (a) Training according to WAC 388-829-0086; and
  - (b) Continuing education according to WAC 388-829-0087.

**NEW SECTION**

**WAC 388-829-0086**

**When must a direct support professional employed during the COVID-19 public health emergency complete training?**

- (1) A direct support professional employed during the COVID-19 public health emergency must complete training as follows:

<b>Worker hired during the time frame of:</b>	<b>Must complete 75-hour new employee training no later than:</b>
8/17/2019 to 9/30/2020	4/30/2022
10/1/2020 to 4/30/2021	6/30/2022
5/1/2021 to 3/31/2022	8/31/2022
After 3/31/2022	As required under WAC 388-829-0015

- (2) Nothing in this section prevents a direct support professional hired between 11/17/2019 and 3/31/2022 from completing training in advance of the deadlines in subsection (1) of this section.

## **NEW SECTION**

### **WAC 388-829-0087**

**When must continuing education be completed when public health emergency waivers are lifted, and what continuing education credit is granted to direct support professionals employed during the pandemic?**

(1) The department finds that direct support professionals employed during the COVID-19 pandemic between March 1, 2020, and February 28, 2021, required emergent and intensive on-the-job training. Direct support professionals received critical, ongoing training in such topics as:

- (a) Donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE);
- (b) Hand hygiene;
- (c) Disinfection of high-touch surfaces;
- (d) Managing visitations and physical distancing;
- (e) Responding to newly infected residents;
- (f) Promotion of vaccination;
- (g) Protocols for quarantine;
- (h) Use of cloth face coverings;
- (i) Personal protection outside of the work environment; and
- (j) How to reduce exposure and spread.

(2) This on-the-job training was required of all service providers under WAC 388-829-0005. Instruction included infection control and the availability and distribution of personal protective equipment. Recognition of this training as a valid learning experience, in its various forms, was agreed upon with input from consumer and worker representatives, as the content was based on guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other federal, state, and local health care authorities.

(3) During this time, direct support professionals required ongoing critical training because guidance from the CDC, department of labor and industries, and other health authorities changed as more was learned about the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The department finds that this unprecedented on-the-job training comprised of at least 12 hours of continuing education between March 1, 2020, and February 28, 2021, and that this training:

- (a) Is not considered to be repeated training as described in WAC 388-829-0100; and
- (b) Satisfies the 12 hours of annual continuing education training.

(4) The direct support professional may apply the 12 hours of on-the-job training towards continuing education for either 2020 or 2021.

(5) All direct support professionals employed during the dates in subsection (3) of this section are granted 12 hours of DSHS-approved continuing education credit for the training entitled "COVID-19 On-The-Job Training Protocols," bearing the DSHS approval code CE2135218. No physical certificate for this training will be issued or required. The hours must be applied as any other continuing education hours and to the renewal periods under WAC 388-829-0085.

(6) The department recognizes that direct support professionals may not have completed training hours in excess of the 12 hours of CE granted in subsection (4) of this section due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. All direct support professionals have 120 days from the end of the public health emergency to complete any additional CE that may have become due while training waivers were in place in excess of the 12 hours of CE granted in subsection (4) of this section.