

Serving homeless youth in COVID I/Q facilities

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

What we'll cover today

- Licensing exemptions
- Legal requirements
- Recommendations

Who this applies to

Isolation & Quarantine facilities operated by a county for the purpose of treating those infected with or exposed to COVID. Facilities may be those funded through Commerce or other sources.

Unaccompanied homeless youth refers to youth under the age of 18 who are experiencing housing instability while not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian, and not in the custody of the state.

State agency roles

Commerce:

- Funding and oversight to outreach programs and HOPE and Crisis Residential Center (CRC) shelter programs that serve homeless youth.
- Grants to counties to address I/Q needs of people experiencing homelessness

Department of Children, Youth, and Families:

Licenses HOPE and CRC facilities. Licensing includes requirements for the physical space, staff qualifications, staffing ratios, staff duties.

DCYF Recommendations for License Exempt Community-Based COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Facilities for Children and Youth

NOTICE: These recommendations are intended only as an informative resource. DCYF recognizes this document may be used by entities exempt from licensing. The department has no authority over such entities and cannot be held liable for the actions or inactions of such entities. Any entity that relies on the resources identified in these recommendations has the duty to verify the applicability, accuracy, and timeliness of the resource.



Intent of I/Q Facilities

An Isolation and Quarantine (I/Q) facility is any entity that is operated by a county or pursuant to a contract with a county and that provides temporary services to homeless youth who have been diagnosed with, infected with, or exposed to COVID-19. I/Q facilities are not considered to be “agencies” under RCW 74.15.020(1). Accordingly, I/Q facilities **need not be licensed** in order to accept unaccompanied minors. Please see [WAC 110-145-1305](#)

I/Q facilities are urged to provide access to unaccompanied minors in order to reduce the risk of community spread of COVID.

Legal Obligations Identified in RCW

1. Notification to Parent, Law Enforcement, or DCYF (RCW 13.32A.082)
 - Independent youth – contact parent/legal guardian and DCYF Intake
 - State dependent youth – contact DCYF Intake
 - Youth twelve years of age or younger – contact DCYF Intake and local law enforcement
2. Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect (RCW 26.44.030)
 - All minors – contact DCYF Intake and local law enforcement

DCYF Intake = local CPS number or toll-free 1-886-ENDHARM

I/Q Youth Placement Scenarios

- Dependent youth – **cannot** be served at county I/Q facilities. State contracted providers are serving state dependent youth.
- Independent youth
 - If youth are **not** currently served at a licensed group care facility – **DCYF urges county I/Q facilities to focus on serving these youth**
 - If youth are currently served at a licensed group care facility – providers should contact tribal/local public health authorities regarding I/Q action steps (see DOH quarantine guidance)

Please see – [Group Home Covid-19 Prevention and Exposure Steps](#)

Recommendation from Group Care WACs 110-145

- Staffing Ratios
 - Background Check
 - Shared Use of Space
 - Age Grouping
- Bedroom Sharing
 - Missing Child Reporting Responsibilities
 - Staff Duties

See DCYF Recommendations for License Exempt Community-Based COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Facilities for Children and Youth



Health and Safety Recommendations Specific to COVID-19 Pandemic

Due to the pandemic nature of the COVID-19 emergency WA state Department of Health, in coordination with the Tribal and local emergency management and health authorities, is leading the state collective response efforts.

- [DCYF COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [WA State COVID-19 Response](#)
- [National Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

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