



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
AGING AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION
800 NE 136th Ave Ste 200, Vancouver, WA 98684

Cascade Living Group - Shelton, LLC
Alpine Way Retirement Apartments
900 W Alpine Way
Shelton, WA 98584

RE: Alpine Way Retirement Apartments License # 2141

Dear Administrator:

This letter addresses Compliance Determination(s) 35054 (Completion Date 01/19/2024) and 31052 (Completion Date 11/02/2023).

The Department completed a follow-up inspection of your Assisted Living Facility on 01/19/2024 and found no deficiencies. Your facility meets the Assisted Living Facility licensing requirements.

The Department found that deficiencies for the following licensing laws and regulations were corrected:
WAC 388-78A-2610-1

The Department staff who did the on-site verification:
Pamela Horlick, NCI RN Complaint Investigator

If you have any questions, please contact me at (253)254-3190.

Sincerely,

Cory Cisneros

Cory Cisneros, Field Manager
Region 3, Unit E
Residential Care Services

This document was prepared by Residential Care Services for the Locator website.



Residential Care Services Investigation Summary Report

Provider/Facility: Alpine Way Retirement Apartments
License/Cert.#: 2141
Compliance Determination #: 31052
Investigator: Pamela Horlick
Investigation Date(s): 10/12/2023 through 11/02/2023
Complainant Contact Date(s):

Provider Type: Assisted Living Facility
Intake ID: 100509
Region/Unit #: RCS Region 3 / Unit E

Allegation(s):

Infection Control: Facility report of Covid-19 outbreak in the community.

Investigation Methods:

Sample:	Total residents: 72 Resident sample size: 3 Closed records sample size: 0
Observations:	Residents Dining Staff to resident interactions Resident to resident interactions
Interviews:	Identified resident Identified staff Nursing staff Administrator Corporate Nurse Chief Wellness Officer Wellness Director
Record Reviews:	Incident investigation Facility policies Staff training records

Investigation Summary:

Infection Control: Facility failed to maintain respirator protection program records for staff by failing to complete respirator fit testing records and have medical clearances available review. Failed practice identified.

Conclusion / Action:

- ☒ Failed Provider Practice Identified / Citation(s) Written
- ☐ Failed Provider Practice Not Identified / No Citation Written

☐ N/A

11.30.2023 09:17:38

State of Washington

5/



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
AGING AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION
800 NE 136th Ave Ste 200, Vancouver, WA 98684

Statement of Deficiencies	License #: 2141	Compliance Determination # 31052
Plan of Correction	Alpine Way Retirement Apartments	Completion Date
Page 1 of 6	Licensee: Cascade Living Group - Shelton, LLC	11/02/2023

You are required to be in compliance at all times with all licensing laws and regulations to maintain your Assisted Living Facility license.

The department completed data collection for an unannounced on-site complaint investigation on 10/12/2023 and 10/12/2023 of:

Alpine Way Retirement Apartments
900 W Alpine Way
Shelton, WA 98584

This document references the following complaint number(s): 100509

The following sample was selected for review during the unannounced on-site visit: 3 of 72 current residents and 0 former residents.

The department staff that investigated the Assisted Living Facility:

Pamela Horlick, NCI RN Complaint Investigator

From:
DSHS, Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
Residential Care Services, Region 3, Unit E
800 NE 136th Ave Ste 200
Vancouver, WA 98684

As a result of the on-site visit(s), the department found that you are not in compliance with the licensing laws and regulations as stated in the cited deficiencies in the enclosed report.

Cory Cisneros
Residential Care Services

11/13/2023
Date

I understand that to maintain an Assisted Living Facility license, the facility must be in compliance with all the licensing laws and regulations at all times.

This document was prepared by Residential Care Services for the Locator website.

11.30.2023 09:17:38

State of Washington

6/

Statement of Deficiencies	License #: 2141	Compliance Determination # 31052
Plan of Correction	Alpine Way Retirement Apartments	Completion Date
Page 2 of 6	Licensee: Cascade Living Group - Shelton, LLC	11/02/2023

Wendy W. Wenzel
 Administrator (or Representative)

12-1-23
 Date

WAC 388-78A-2610 Infection control.

(1) The assisted living facility must institute appropriate infection control practices in the assisted living facility to prevent and limit the spread of infections.

This requirement was not met as evidenced by:

Based on interview, and record review, the facility failed to follow infection control measures by failing to document and maintain employee N95 respirator fit testing records and medical clearances for 8 of 8 employees, (Staff D, Staff E, Staff F, Staff G, Staff H, Staff I, Staff J, and Staff K) This failure placed all 73 of 73 residents, staff, and visitors at risk of contracting and spreading communicable diseases.

Findings included...

WAC 296-842-10200, "Definitions", showed that a Qualitative fit test (QLFT) is a test that determines the adequacy of respirator fit for an individual. The test relies on the employee's ability to detect a test substance. Test results are either "pass" or "fail." A Quantitative fit test (QNFT). A test that determines the adequacy of respirator fit for an individual. The test relies on specialized equipment that performs numeric measurements of leakage into the respiratory inlet covering. Test results are used to calculate a "fit factor."

WAC 296-842-12010, "Keep respirator program records," showed "A written copy of the current respirator program must be kept by the employer." Part of the respirator program was to "keep each employee's current fit test record, if fit-testing is conducted, until the next fit test is administered. Fit test records must include:

- Employee name
- Test date
- Type of fit-test performed
- Description (type, manufacturer, model, style, and size) of the respirator tested
- Results of fit test
- Keep written recommendations from the LHCP (Licensed Health Care Provider)".

Fit test record

Review of the Department of Health (DOH) website, "Respiratory Protection Program for Long-Term Care Facilities," under Fit test Record, undated, showed "You must have documentation the employee has been fit tested within the year. Keep respirator fit test records on file for each fit tested employee. There are specific requirements in the

This document was prepared by Residential Care Services for the Locator website.

11.30.2023 09:17:38

State of Washington

7/

Statement of Deficiencies	License #: 2141	Compliance Determination # 31052
Plan of Correction	Alpine Way Retirement Apartments	Completion Date
Page 3 of 6	Licensee: Cascade Living Group - Shelton, LLC	11/02/2023

regulation about what needs to be in the fit test record. The fit test record must include:

- Employee name
- Test date
- Type of fit test performed
- Description of the respirator tested (type, manufacturer, model, style, and size)
- Results of the fit test(s)"

Review of the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) website titled, "Transcript for the OSHA Training video Entitled Respirator Fit testing", undated, showed there were two types of fit tests: qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative fit testing was a pass/fail test method that uses your sense of taste or smell, or your reaction to an irritant in order to detect leakage into the respirator facepiece. Qualitative fit testing did not measure the actual amount of leakage. Whether the respirator passes or fails the test was based simply on you detecting leakage of the test substance into the facepiece.

Review of the facility's respiratory protection folder, on 10/12/2023, showed eight fit testing records for different staff on each page. Each box was titled, "Respiratory Fit Test". In the box for each employee was a place for the date, name, and company. Below that it stated, "was successfully fit test in" and there were three places to fill in the manufacturer and the model number. To the right of that it gave three options to circle the size, "S" (small), "M" (medium), and "L" (large). To the right of that it gave two options to circle the type of test performed "QLFT" (qualitative) and "QNF" (quantitative). Below the mask information was a place for the "Fit Tester" to sign. Review of the staff fit test records showed:

- Staff D, a Caregiver: Review of Staff D's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff D in the folder.
- Staff E, a Medication Technician (Med Tech): Review of Staff D's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff E in the folder.
- Staff F, a Dietary Aide: Review of Staff F's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff F in the folder.
- Staff G, a Caregiver: Review of Staff G's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff G in the folder.
- Staff H, a Caregiver: Review of Staff H's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff H in the folder.
- Staff I, a Dietary Aide: Review of Staff I's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff I in the folder.

This document was prepared by Residential Care Services for the Locator website.

11.30.2023 09:17:38

State of Washington

8/

Statement of Deficiencies	License #: 2141	Compliance Determination # 31052
Plan of Correction	Alpine Way Retirement Apartments	Completion Date
Page 4 of 6	Licensee: Cascade Living Group - Shelton, LLC	11/02/2023

- Staff J, a Life Enrichment Assistant: Review of Staff J's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff J in the folder.
- Staff K, a Concierge: Review of Staff K's Respirator Fit Test Record showed their name, date, company name, manufacturer of mask, model of mask and was signed off by the fit tester. The following information was missing from the fit test record: Size and type of test conducted. There was no medical clearance for Staff K in the folder.

During an interview with Staff C, Corporate Nurse, on 10/12/2023 at 2:12PM, when asked how do you know who passed their fit test and who has not passed based on what you have provided, Staff C stated that if they don't pass their fit test, we don't fill out a Respirator fit test record for that staff.

During an interview with Staff B, Wellness Director, on 10/16/2023 at 10:23AM, when asked how do you know if someone passed their fit test, Staff B stated that they will fill out a respirator fit test card. Staff B stated that if they are medically cleared by the doctor, they will test them and fill out the card. When asked what happens if they were not cleared, Staff B stated that they will get notified to not test. Staff B stated, "I guess we should have an official piece of paper that says that. I just don't test them."

During an interview on 11/02/2023 at 12:00PM when asked why the type of fit test being performed wasn't specified, Staff B stated that they only do one type of test. When asked if that was specified on the fit test record, Staff B stated that it was not written on each card.

Medical Clearance

Review of the Department of Health (DOH) website titled, "Respiratory Protection Program for Long-Term Care Facilities", titled "Recordkeeping" stated "The licensed healthcare provider reviewing the medical evaluations must provide you with a written letter of recommendation for each employee who needs to wear a respirator. The letter of recommendation will need to include the date the review was done, how long it is valid, document any restrictions the person may have, and signed by the licensed healthcare provider. The current letter of recommendation must be kept on file."

Review of the facility's Respiratory Protection Program/fit testing binder showed:

Staff D, a Caregiver: There was no medical clearance for Staff D in the folder.
 Staff E, a Medication Technician: There was no medical clearance for Staff E in the folder.
 Staff F, a Dietary Aide: There was no medical clearance for Staff F in the folder.
 Staff G, a Caregiver: There was no medical clearance for Staff G in the folder.
 Staff H, a Caregiver: There was no medical clearance for Staff H in the folder.
 Staff I, a Dietary Aide: There was no medical clearance for Staff I in the folder.
 Staff J, a Life Enrichment Assistant: There was no medical clearance for Staff J in the folder.
 Staff K, a Concierge: There was no medical clearance for Staff K in the folder.

This document was prepared by Residential Care Services for the Locator website.

11.30.2023 09:17:38

State of Washington

9/

Statement of Deficiencies	License #: 2141	Compliance Determination # 31052
Plan of Correction	Alpine Way Retirement Apartments	Completion Date
Page 5 of 6	Licensee: Cascade Living Group - Shelton, LLC	11/02/2023

During an interview on 10/12/2023 at 3:11 with Staff A and Staff C, when asked where the medical clearances were kept, they stated that they were unsure but would go look for them.

On 10/12/2023 at 3:35PM, Staff A and Staff C returned and stated that they didn't have medical clearances for staff. When asked where the medical clearances were kept, Staff C stated that they were "not kept here."

During an interview on 10/16/2023 at 10:23AM, Staff B, Wellness Director, when asked where the medical clearances were kept, Staff B stated that those were supposed to be kept in the business office, but they had never seen one. Staff B stated that they believe they were kept at the home office offsite.

Review of an email, dated 10/17/2023 at 5:04PM, showed a request sent to Staff B requesting medical clearances for Staff D, Staff E, Staff F, Staff G, Staff H, Staff I, Staff J, and Staff K.

Review of an email dated 10/19/23 at 10:48AM, from Staff B, showed copies of emails stating staff were approved by a medical doctor to wear the respirator for Staff E, Staff G, Staff H, Staff I. Documentation for Staff D, Staff F, Staff J and Staff K were missing.

Record review of an email dated 10/19/2023 at 10:48AM, showed an email from the facility stating that questionnaires were reviewed and staff were approved to wear the respirator for Staff E, Staff G, Staff H, and Staff I. There was no date of when this review occurred, how long it was valid or signature of the licensed healthcare provider.

Review of an email received on 10/20/2023 at 1:49PM, showed updated medical clearances for staff whose fit test recently expired. Staff A stated, "Here are the clearances you requested. I refer you back to the documents that the doctor sent that state, "The approval expires 12 months from the date of submission..."

Review of an email on 10/20/2023 at 10:08AM, showed Staff B stated that "[they] do the forms annually as a safety precaution, but according to the guidance, they only need to be re-done on the doctor's recommendation or for changes, there is no true expiration date."

Review of an email on 10/26/2023 at 4:59PM, showed Staff L, Chief Wellness Officer, was asked if the home office kept emails from the doctor on file when the staff were medically cleared. Staff L responded via email on 10/27/2023 at 2:47PM, and Staff L stated "Yes, I have access to all the emails as they come through a central email group and then I forward them to the correct community. They should be printed and put in the employee file."

This document was prepared by Residential Care Services for the Locator website.

11.30.2023 09:17:38

State of Washington

10/

Statement of Deficiencies	License #: 2141	Compliance Determination # 31052
Plan of Correction	Alpine Way Retirement Apartments	Completion Date
Page 6 of 6	Licensee: Cascade Living Group - Shelton, LLC	11/02/2023

During an interview on 11/02/2023 at 12:00PM, when asked how were they notified to fix test someone, Staff B stated that they were notified by email and now they are printing those and putting them in their [staff] personal file. Staff B stated they didn't realize that they should be keeping them. When asked what were they doing with them before, Staff B stated they were deleting them. Staff B stated now they (home office) were sending them to Staff B and Staff B was printing them and putting them in the staff's file under confidential.

Plan/Attestation Statement

I hereby certify that I have reviewed this report and have taken or will take active measures to correct this deficiency. By taking this action, Alpine Way Retirement Apartments is or will be in compliance with this law and / or regulation on (Date) 12-15-23.

In addition, I will implement a system to monitor and ensure continued compliance with this requirement.

Wendy Wencenny RW
Administrator (or Representative)

12-1-23
Date

This document was prepared by Residential Care Services for the Locator website.