

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON
PROPOSED REGULATIONS AMENDMENTS TO HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES ON
COVID FLEXIBILITIES TO BE MADE PERMANENT**

1) What do these regulations do?

The proposed regulations include changes that will:

- allow First Aid and CPR certifications for providers of waiver and personal care services to be obtained on-line;
 - allow electronic signatures on SDS documents;
 - allow certain home and community-based waiver services (long term services and supports targeted case management, care coordination, day habilitation, employment, intensive active treatment) to be delivered using distance delivery methods, within limits and if approved in a recipient's support plan;
 - allow day habilitation to be provided in residential settings, within limits and if approved in a recipient's support plan;
 - change the number of required in-person visits between care coordinators and recipients on their caseload to semi-annual;
 - allow respite services to be used when the primary caregiver needs relief to work; and
- update various provider Conditions of Participation that are adopted by reference.

2) Who is primarily affected by these regulations?

Recipients and providers of Alaska's five waivers and personal care services

3) Why are these regulations proposed now?

During the COVID pandemic, SDS sought and CMS approved certain flexibilities in implementing approved waiver and personal care services conditions, with suspension of corresponding state regulations. SDS, providers, and waiver recipients would like to make these temporary flexibilities captured permanently in regulation.

CMS has approved Alaska's flexibilities until six months after the federal Public Health Emergency ends (currently January 14, 2022), so until mid-July, 2022. SDS hopes that these proposed regulations will take effect then, to not create a gap once Appendix K approval expires.