

# Chapter 246-358 WAC- Temporary Worker Housing Rule Revision Fact Sheet

May 2023

The Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) are committed to taking action to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases in Temporary Worker Housing (TWH) sites. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, DOH and L&I continued to review new information and data as it became available to determine necessary requirements to protect TWH occupants from COVID-19 and similar airborne infectious disease hazards which was used to adopt a series of emergency rules. Based on this information and gauging the effectiveness of the nine emergency rules, DOH and L&I identified proposed amendments to the permanent rules to protect occupants.

On April 12, 2023, DOH and L&I held a two-week informal comment period to engage with interested parties to review and comment on the draft rule amendments. Both agencies reviewed the comments and made clarifying changes to the rule based on feedback.

On May 2, 2023, DOH and L&I filed CR-102 Proposed Rule Makings [WSR 23-10-093](#) and [WSR 23-10-092](#) respectively, to propose amendments to the permanent rule.

## Table of Changes

WAC Section	Action	Change
<b>246-358-010</b> Definitions	Amend	Added definitions for “Communicable Disease”, “Community-based Outreach Worker”, “Community Health Worker”, “Mechanical Ventilation System”, and “Outbreak”
<b>246-358-050</b> TWH management plan	Amend	Clarified rule language and added 246-358-050(3) that requires operators to submit a revised TWH management plan to the department and TWH occupants within 10 calendar days of the effective date of the changes.
<b>246-358-076</b> Ventilation	New	Added specific ventilation requirements for all TWH buildings with existing mechanical ventilation systems to maximize outdoor air intake. Added maintenance logs requirements, mechanical ventilation filter specifications and conditions that would require the occupants to shut down a mechanical ventilation system or close all outside openings.
<b>246-358-077</b> Tent requirements and maintenances	Amend	Clarified rule language and added 246-358-077(9)(c) that requires operators to instruct the occupants to close windows and other outside openings when external conditions pose a health and safety risk.
<b>246-358-175</b> Disease prevention and control	Amend	Revised the requirements to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation with the local health jurisdiction and DOH during an outbreak;</li> <li>• Updated notification requirements;</li> <li>• A communicable disease and prevention response plan that includes isolation or quarantine of suspected or confirmed cases as well as providing medical assistance to those in isolation or quarantine; and</li> <li>• Specific training for those responsible for executing the communicable disease and prevention response plan.</li> </ul>