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**Welcome to the**

**ALF Provider**

**Webinar with LTCR**

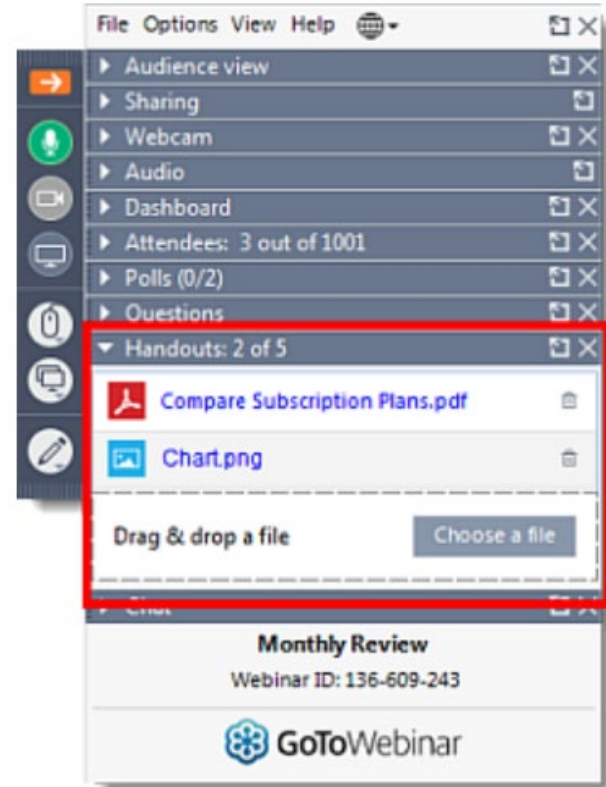
**April 14, 2022**



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# Handout

A pdf version of this presentation is available in the **Handout** section of your control panel. Save the file to your computer to view or print later.





# ALF Resources

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[ALF Provider Portal](#) - Find answers to most common questions

Resources and tools for ALFs:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
  - [§553.2001](#) **\*\*Updated\*\***
  - [§553.2003](#)
  - [§553.2004](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
  - [ALF FAQ](#)
- [Provider Letters](#)

# COVID-19 Mitigation and Response Rule

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Effective April 3 – Revised ALF [COVID-19 Mitigation and Response Emergency Rule \(PDF\)](#). (§553.2001)

The revised rule:

- Facilities must still screen anyone entering the building but removes the requirement to document screenings.
- Removes definition of Personal Protective Equipment. PPE is still described in §553.2003.



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# COVID-19 Response Plan

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ALFs **must** have a COVID-19 response plan that includes policies describing:

- How, if the facility cannot successfully isolate a COVID-19 positive resident, will the facility transfer the resident to another facility capable of isolating and caring for the resident.
- How the ALF will assist the resident and family members if transfer to alternate facility is required.



# Screening

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An ALF **must** screen all residents, staff, and people who come to the facility, in accordance with HHSC guidance.

- Documentation of screening **is not required** by rule
- Minimum frequency of screening is **not prescribed** by rule



# Infection Control

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ALFs must develop and enforce policies and procedures for infection control.

- Written standards, policies, and procedures must include standard and transmission-based precautions
- Facilities need to make sure they look at general protocols to prevent the spread or outbreak
- [CDC link for mask guidance – source control measures](#)



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# Reminder

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A resident that is **COVID-19 positive** must be isolated from other residents until the resident meets guidelines for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions.





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# Reminder

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**If a resident is isolated due to a positive covid infection, they still have the right to be visited.**

Isolation refers to being kept away from other residents.

# Vaccination and Booster

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## **What are the CDC Recommendations on how to Stay Up to Date and Fully Vaccinated?**

As of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the CDC recommends that you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have followed the current recommendations listed on the [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines page](#).

# Vaccination and Booster

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**A person is fully vaccinated** two weeks after receiving all recommended doses in the primary series of their COVID-19 vaccination.

**A person is up to date** with their COVID-19 vaccination if they have received all recommended doses in the primary series and one booster **when eligible.**

**Getting a second booster is not necessary to be considered up to date at this time.**

# Visitation Reminders

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## Reminders

- All visits are allowed for residents with any COVID-19 status, including COVID-19 positive residents.
- Ensure physical distancing between visitation groups and safe infection prevention and control measures, including the resident's room.
- The facility must limit the movement of the visitor through the facility to ensure interaction with other persons in the facility is minimized.

# Seasonal Activities

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- Are residents allowed to participate in spring activities?
- Can spring activities include visitors and residents?



# Reporting COVID-19 Activity

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ALFs must notify HHSC Complaint and Incident Intake through TULIP or by calling 1-800-458-9858 within 24 hours of positive confirmation:

- First confirmed case in staff or residents
- and**
- First confirmed case after a facility has been without cases for 14 days or more

# Reporting COVID-19 Activity (Cont)

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Submit Form 3613-A through TULIP or call 1-800-458-9858 within five working days from the day a confirmed case is reported.

Review [PL 2021-04 HHSC COVID-19 Reporting Process](#) for full policy details, provider responsibilities, and a decision tree on when to report.

# Regulation Compliance

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## REMINDER

ALFs are required comply with all applicable regulations including:

- [26 TAC Chapter 553](#) – Licensing Standards for ALFs  
and
- Emergency Rules
  - [§553.2001](#) – Mitigation and Response
  - [§553.2003](#) – Visitation
  - [§553.2004](#) – Vaccination Data Reporting and Emergency Communication System Enrollment



# COVID-19 Monitoring Frequency

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Effective Monday April 4, 2022, HHSC LTCR Survey Operations will contact LTC providers on Mondays and Thursdays to monitor and review COVID-19 data. Previously, HHSC LTCR contacted providers up to five days a week.

Please note that this does not change the frequency that LTC providers are required to notify HHSC of COVID-19 cases and report vaccination data.

The following resources are reminders to LTC providers of the COVID-19 data that is required to be reported to HHSC:

- [Provider Letter 2021-01 - COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting \(ALF, NF\)](#)
- [Provider Letter 2020-37 - Reporting Guidance for LTC Providers \(ALF, ICF, NF\)](#)



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# Input Request - LSC Topics

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HHSC LTCR issues guidance on Life Safety Code (LSC) topics at least twice a year. We need assisted living facility providers input on topics to address.

You can provide your recommendation for topics for future LSC technical memoranda by close of business on April 22, 2022 to [Kevin.knipa@hhs.Texas.gov](mailto:Kevin.knipa@hhs.Texas.gov).



# PL 2022-09

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## **HHSC Provides Guidance for Requesting COVID-19 Testing Supplies for Providers Without CLIA Waivers (PL 2022-09)**

HHSC Long-term Care Regulation has published <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pl2022-09.pdf>.

This letter describes the process for ALF, HCS, HCSSA, ICF and TxHmL providers without a CLIA waiver to enroll for the GenBody-100 COVID-19 Test Administrator Courses through the Prepare Texas website and request testing supplies.



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# Reminders

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An ALF may ask about a visitor's COVID-19 vaccination status but **must not** require a visitor to provide documentation of his/her vaccination status as a condition of visitation or to enter the facility.

A personal visitor may refuse to provide information about his/her vaccination status.

# Let Outside Providers In

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## [Provider Letter 2021-33, Authority to Enter Long-term Care Facilities \(PDF\)](#)

This letter reminds providers that they must allow persons providing critical assistance and providers of essential services to enter the facility if they pass the facility's COVID-19 screening.

This includes allowing HCSSA providers and their staff to conduct service delivery with residents.



# DSHS COVID-19 Resources

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- [DSHS Dashboard](#)
  - Confirmed Cases
  - Probable Cases
  - Fatalities
  - Active Cases
  - Recovered
- [COVID-19 Home Page](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Webinars](#)

# Weather Preparedness

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Preparing for disaster is the most important step in protecting our most fragile Texans and reducing the risk for loss of life.

Emergency plans should include the provider's plan to address:

- Power loss
- Water and food needs
- Communication to families and staff
- Staffing shortages
- Sheltering in place and evacuation as applicable



# Weather Preparedness (Cont)

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Providers must follow emergency preparedness rules and their own internal emergency preparedness policies and procedures.

Facilities with generators should perform any maintenance or needed testing while the weather is mild. This will ensure the equipment functions in case of extreme temperature or power loss.

Review building integrity and identify any areas that may need repair, reinforcement or weatherproofing. Multi-story buildings should review any other needed measures should evacuation be required. Have a plan for how to move residents around or out of the building if there is a loss of power.





# Webinar Recordings and PDFs

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## Where can I find previous webinars?

Recordings and PDFs of previous ALF webinars are available from the [ALF Portal](#).

Past webinars are listed in the **Webinars** section. Access the slides and a recording of last month's webinar below:

- [March 23, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [March 23, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Recording](#)

# Upcoming Webinars

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ALF webinars will no longer be limited to COVID information. Upcoming webinars will include general provider information

The next webinar is scheduled for **May 18**.

To submit a discussion topic for upcoming webinars:

- send an email to [LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov)
- use subject line "ALF Webinar Topic"



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# GovDelivery

## How do I get an email invitation to the webinars?

Go to:

<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>

- Enter your email address.
- Confirm your email address, select your delivery preference, and submit a password if you want one.
- At a minimum, select ALF or your preferred topics.
- When done click "Submit."

### Provider Alerts

- Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) Resources
- Assisted Living and Residential Care (ALRC) Resources
- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Resources
- Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Resources
- Consumer Managed Personal Assistance Services (CMPAS) Resources
- Electronic Visit Verification
- Local Authorities Resources
- Texas Minimum Data Set (MDS) Resources
- Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS) Resources
- Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Program Resources
- Employment First
- Family Care (FC) Resources

# Training Opportunities

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Joint Training Opportunities:

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/training/jointtraining.cfm>

Missed a COVID-19 training? Many COVID-19 presentations for LTC providers are recorded and are available 24/7. Visit the recording library at:

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/covid-19webinarsfortlc>

**Note:** Recordings are accurate as of the date of presentation and updated guidance may be available.

# PL 2021-22 Posting of Ombudsman Information

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[PL 2021-22](#) details requirements of a facility to post ombudsman information on its website.

A facility must prominently and conspicuously post the following information about the Ombudsman Program on its website:

“A long-term care ombudsman helps residents of a nursing facility and residents of an assisted living facility resolve complaints. Help provided by an ombudsman is confidential and free of charge. To speak with an ombudsman, a person may call the toll-free number 1-800-252-2412.”



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# LTC Ombudsman

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**Patty Ducayet**

**State Long-term Care Ombudsman**

Telework Phone: (512) 438-4356

[https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/news\\_info/ombudsman/](https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/news_info/ombudsman/)

**Statewide Contact for an LTC  
Ombudsman:**

Phone: (800) 252-2412 or

Email: [ltc.ombudsman@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:ltc.ombudsman@hhs.texas.gov)



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# Webinar Q&A

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# How to Contact

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## **Jennifer Morrison, Manager**

[Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov)

## **LTCR Policy Mailbox**

[LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov)

## **COVID-19 Page**

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19>

## **ALF Provider Portal**

<https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/assisted-living-facilities-alf>





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**Thank you!**

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