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**Welcome to the
ALF Provider
COVID-19 Webinar
with LTCR**

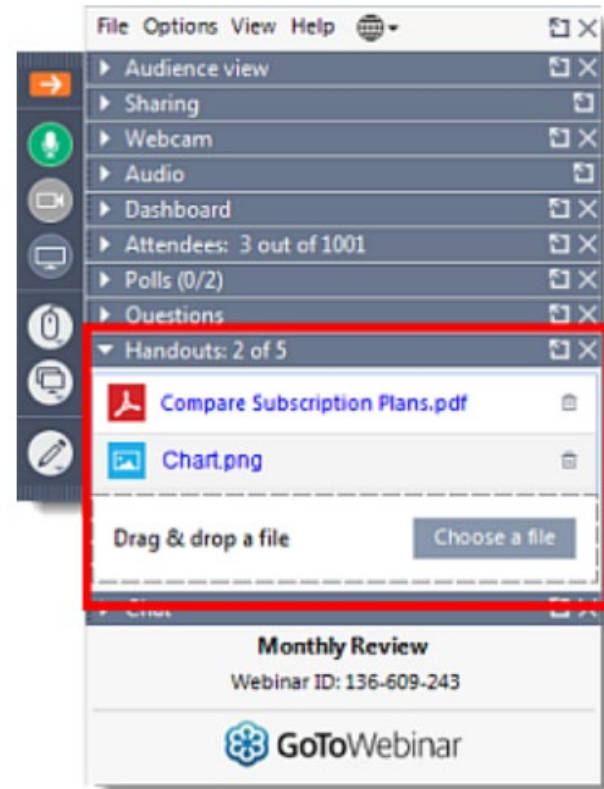
February 16, 2022



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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

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

Resources and tools for ALFs:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
 - [§553.2001](#)
 - [§553.2003](#) (effective 2/16/2022)
 - [§553.2004](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
 - [ALF FAQ](#)
- [Provider Letters](#)

New Emergency Rules - Visitation



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New [§553.2003](#) visitation rules:

- Simpler and more open
- Visits can take place for residents with any COVID status
- Visits may occur in the location of the resident's choice

New Emergency Rules - Visitation



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New [§553.2003](#) visitation rules:

- No restrictions on salon visits
- No requirement to clean and sanitize between visits
 - Facilities must continue to follow infection control protocols

New Emergency Rules - Visitation



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New [§553.2003](#) visitation rules:

- Outbreak definition added staff who have been in the facility in the last 14 days
- Resident still must designate essential caregivers

New Emergency Rules - Visitation



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New [§553.2003](#) visitation rules:

- Facility must inform all visitors of the facility's infection control policies related to visitation
- No longer required to have handwashing and sanitizing stations – must still follow infection control procedures

Revised Guidance – Staffing Shortages



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HHSC has issued revised guidance for assisted living and nursing facility providers experiencing staffing shortages due to COVID-19.

The document includes updated language to align with [CDC](#) guidance and terms.

Read the [updated guidance](#).

Emergency Staffing Requests



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ALERT - Emergency Staffing Requests

- The state cannot provide staffing assistance within 24 hrs.
- Staffing assistance may take 2-3 days.
- Not all requests for emergency staffing will be fulfilled.
- Indicate level of need on request to aid in prioritization.
- Email questions to your [regional director](#).

Staffing Request Info



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From DSHS regarding staffing requests:

Due to the decline in COVID-19 cases, the last date to submit STARs for Staffing Requests will be **March 7, 2022.**

Visitation Reminder



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ALERT – Visitation Reminder

- All visitation **must** be allowed.
- Essential caregiver and end-of-life visits must be allowed for all residents with any COVID-19 status.
- A facility may be cited if visitation is not allowed.

Review ALF visitation rules: [§553.2003](#)

CDC Infection Control Guidance



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CDC - [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for HCP](#) (updated 2/2/22)

CDC recommends counseling residents about [strategies to protect themselves and others](#).

CDC has a [number of resources for older adults](#).

CDC Isolation and Work Restriction Guidance



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CDC - [Isolation and work restriction guidance](#) for healthcare personnel

- Asymptomatic HCP who have recovered from COVID infection in the prior 90 days **do not** require work restriction following a higher-risk exposure.
- Asymptomatic HCP who have had a higher-risk exposure **do not** require work restriction if they are [up to date](#) with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses and do not develop symptoms or test positive for COVID.

CDC – Work Restrictions for HCP with Infection and Exposure



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Work Restrictions for HCP With SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Exposures

"Up to Date" with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses is defined in [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines | CDC](#)

For more details, including recommendations for healthcare personnel who are immunocompromised, have severe to critical illness, or are within 90 days of prior infection, refer to [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#) (conventional standards) and [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#) (contingency and crisis standards).

Work Restrictions for HCP With SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Up to Date and Not Up to Date	10 days OR 7 days with negative test [†] , if asymptomatic or mild to moderate illness (with improving symptoms)	5 days with/without negative test, if asymptomatic or mild to moderate illness (with improving symptoms)	No work restriction, with prioritization considerations (e.g., types of patients they care for)

Work Restrictions for Asymptomatic HCP with SARS-CoV-2 Exposures

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Up to Date	No work restrictions, with negative test on days 1 [‡] and 5–7	No work restriction	No work restriction
Not Up to Date	10 days OR 7 days with negative test [†]	No work restriction with negative tests on days 1 [‡] , 2, 3, & 5–7 (if shortage of tests prioritize Day 1 to 2 and 5-7)	No work restrictions (test if possible)

[†]Negative test result within 48 hours before returning to work

[‡]For calculating day of test: 1) for those with infection consider day of symptom onset (or first positive test if asymptomatic) as day 0; 2) for those with exposure consider day of exposure as day 0



11/18/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html>

CDC – Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines



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[CDC - Get Vaccinated and Stay Up to Date](#)

- **Up to date** means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.
- **Fully vaccinated** means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.

CDC Booster Guidance



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Updated CDC Booster Guidance

The screenshot shows the CDC website page for COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots. The page is titled "COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots" and is updated as of February 2, 2022. The main content area is divided into three sections: "Choosing Your COVID-19 Booster Shot", "Who Can Get a Booster Shot", and "Which booster can you get?". The "Who Can Get a Booster Shot" section is highlighted in a light blue box and includes a table with the following information:

IF YOU RECEIVED	Who should get a booster:	When to get a booster:	Which booster can you get:
Pfizer-BioNTech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Everyone 12 years and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least 5 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>



CDC Resources - Variants

[CDC Guidance: Omicron Variant](#)

- Variants spread more easily than original SARS-CoV-2.
- Vaccines remain the most effective way to prevent infection and severe disease among LTC residents and staff.

Get answers to your vaccine questions at [CDC's Vaccinate with Confidence](#).

BinaxNOW Test Kits



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For information on the availability of BinaxNow testing kits see [PL 2020-49 Revised](#).

Providers must complete and submit the [attestation form](#) for BinaxNOW POC test kits.

Note: BinaxNOW tests are not polymerase chain reaction (PCR) – and do not satisfy OSHA requirement for return to work.

Training Requirements for Nurse Aides and NATCEPs



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HHSC has published [Training Requirements for Nurse Aides and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs \(Provider Letter 2022-04\) \(PDF\)](#).

The letter provides guidance about the recently-amended rules for NATCEP providers and certified nurse aides in [Title 26, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 556](#).

The amended rules add infection control training requirements for both a NATCEP and a CNA.

Timely Renewal of Facility Licensure Required



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[Reminder that Timely Renewal of Facility Licensure Required](#)

Revised [PL 2021-29](#) describes the rule suspensions that ended, including license submission and processing timelines flexibility.

- Licenses expired **before** October 3, 2021 – renewal application must be submitted by January 2, 2022.
- Any license that expires **on or after** October 3, 2021 – must renew according to licensure application timeline.

Suspend Use of Certain Medical Gloves



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[FDA Investigating Certain Imported Medical Gloves – Recommends Suspending Use](#)

The FDA recommends that health care facilities and providers **do not** purchase, or use imported medical gloves from companies included on this [list](#).

For FDA-cleared medical gloves, search this [database](#) using the glove product code.

Report any medical glove purchases to [the FDA by email](#) that are a different color, appear used, soiled, or otherwise seem to be fraudulent.



Reminders

PL 2021-01

ALFs must continue to report vaccination data to HHSC via [survey](#).

- Within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations
- Aggregate number of staff (employees, contractors, volunteers)
- Aggregate number of residents
- Report vaccinations administered by facility or pharmacy partner
- Include **additional dose** and **booster dose** vaccinations administered



Therapeutics

DSHS has set up a new order system for therapeutics, which has been built on to the COVID-19 vaccine ordering platform, VAOS. DSHS is now asking providers to order monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapeutics through VAOS

For webinars on ordering mAb in VAOS for new VAOS providers, see [DSHS COVID-19 Therapeutics](#)



Therapeutics

<Continued>

HHS mAb 101 Webinar: Every other week HHS hosts a mAb 101 webinar designed for sites that are new to monoclonal antibodies, email COVID19Therapeutics@HHS.gov for more information on webinar dates and registration links.

Email therapeutics@dshs.texas.gov for questions regarding how to set up a VAOS account or ordering therapeutics



Reminders

Reporting New Positive Cases

ALFs are **only** required to report to HHSC Complaint and Incident Intake (CII) by email to ciicomplaints@hhs.texas.gov within 24 hours:

- a facility's first positive case of COVID-19 in a resident/staff member, **or**
- a new positive case of COVID-19 in a resident/staff member after a facility has been without a new case 14 days or longer.

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



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Reminders

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.

Entry into LTC Facilities



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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.



Marketing Events

Marketing events are allowed, but they cannot involve residents.

Marketing events are not resident activities.

Resident visits should take priority over marketing events.



DSHS COVID-19 Resources

- [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](#)

Winter and Extreme Weather Reminders



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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.

HHSC encourages facilities to review and update emergency plans for freezing temperatures and snow.

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

Winter and Extreme Weather Reminders



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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 cold 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

Where can I find a copy of last month's webinar?

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:

- [January 12, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [January 12, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Recording](#)



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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



Joint Training Opportunities

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



Provider Training

Provider Training
Joint Training
HCSSA Training
CLASS Training
HCS & TxHmL Joint Training
Training Initiatives
FMSA Training
HCS Billing Guidelines Training
HCS Applicant Examinations
HCS/TxHmL Applicant Training
TxHmL Applicant Examinations
Web-based training
Resources for Long-Term Care Providers home

Joint Training Opportunities

Missed a COVID-19 training? Many COVID-19 presentations for long-term care providers are recorded and are available 24/7. Please be sure to select the most appropriate recording for your program. Note that recordings are accurate as of the date of presentation and that updated guidance may be available.

Visit the recording library at <https://www.gotostage.com/channel/covid-19webinarsforttc>.

Seminar	Date/Time	Location	Class Availability
February 2022			
Six Keys to Self-Reporting ANE and Other Incidents (NF) <small>(course description)</small>	Monday, February 7, 2022 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Webinar (100 MAX)	Register for Webinar
Workshop for Nursing Facility DONs: A Snapshot <small>(course description)</small>	Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Webinar (100 MAX)	Register for Webinar
Life Safety Code and Maintenance of Nursing Facilities <small>(course description)</small>	Tuesday, February 8, 2022 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Webinar (1000 MAX)	Register for Webinar



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COVID-19 Webinars for LTC

View recorded webinars from Texas HHSC Joint Training on COVID-related topics in LTC:

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

Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas ALFs
THU, FEB 17, 2022 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CST

To Register:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5862068654383759119>

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



Patty Ducayet

State Long-term Care Ombudsman

Telework Phone: (737) 704-9075

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



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Webinar Q&A



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How to Contact

Jennifer Morrison, Manager

Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov

LTCR Policy Mailbox

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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Joint Training Presentation



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Thank you!
