Welcome to the

ALF Provider Webinar with LTCR

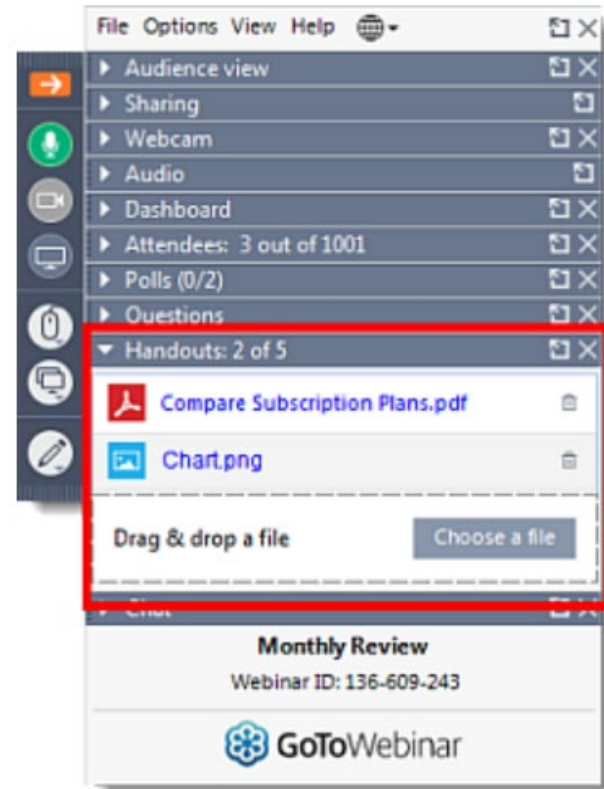**January 11, 2023**

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:

- 26 TAC Chapter 570 – LTC Rules during Public Health Emergency
- Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Common Infections in LTC Facilities
- Provider Letters

PL 2022-28 - Implementation of HB 1681

Effective December 6, 2022

- Newly constructed ALFs must not be built in a 100-year floodplain, if the facility is in a county with more than 3.3 million residents

- The new rules do not apply to expansions or renovations of existing facilities.

- PL 2022-28 for full details

PL 2022-29 – Implementation of HB 1423, SB 199, SB 271, SB 383

Effective December 6, 2022

- If an applicant for employment has lived in another state within the past five years, the facility must perform a name-based criminal history check for any state in which the applicant lived during that period.

- PL 2022-29 for full details.

PL 2022-29 – Implementation of HB 1423, SB 199, SB 271, SB 383

Effective December 6, 2022

- An ALF that advertises, markets, or otherwise promotes that it provides memory care services must provide an HHSC-prescribed memory care disclosure statement.

- The disclosure statement must indicate if the facility is certified or not certified to provide services to residents with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

- PL 2022-29 for full details.

PL 2022-30 – Guidance on New Temporary CHOW Rules

PL 2022-30 provides guidance for the amended rules in 26 TAC §553.35 for ALFs.

- Authorize HHSC to issue a temporary CHOW license in the name of the new owner of an ALF and to complete a health inspection of the provider while the new owner holds the temporary CHOW license.

- Authorize HHSC to extend the duration of the temporary CHOW license to allow HHSC additional time to perform the health inspection of the provider.

PL 2022-32 – Blackboard Connect Emergency Communication System

PL 2022-32 Blackboard Connect Emergency Communication System

This system will be used to send emergency and outreach notifications through email, phone, voice and text if available.

The rule will be **effective on January 24**, so all providers **must** be signed up by this date.

ALF staff that **must** register: Manager and designee

Once the rules are effective, surveyors will begin assessing compliance with the requirement for designated staff to sign up.

Handout – Blackboard Connect Provider Registration Instructions

CII Voicemail Reporting Option Ended

[HHSC Complaint and Incident Intake Voicemail Reporting Option Ended on Dec. 31](#)

The provider self-reporting voicemail option was transitioned out of service on Dec. 31, 2022. Effective Jan. 1, 2023, provider self-reported incidents must be submitted using one of the methods indicated below:

- Online via [TULIP](#)
- Email ciicomplaints@hhs.texas.gov
- Call 800-458-9858 (available Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.)

Please ensure that all initial self-reported incidents include the relevant information detailed in [Provider Letter 18-20](#).

Expedited PPE Delivery for LTC Providers

Expedited PPE Delivery for LTC Providers

This alert informs LTC providers that expedited delivery is available for a limited time for personal protective equipment through the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

These items include surgical masks, N95 masks, KN95 masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes. Each of these items have a specific shelf life.

LTC providers, who have a current need for these specific resources, can submit requests by visiting star.tdem.texas.gov and selecting the "Expedited PPE" button.

The generic passcode for the inventory listed above is: 112518. Items are available on a first-come, first-served basis. This system is only to be used on a one-time basis for expedited PPE only.

Infection Control Communication between LTC and Dialysis Facilities

Infection Control Communication Form for Interaction between LTC and Dialysis Facilities

This communication tool can be used to enhance communications between LTC providers and dialysis facilities.

LTC providers are expected to communicate with dialysis facilities regarding changes in patient status. The National Forum of ESRD Networks developed a communication form that is part of a highly effective practice that can be used to facilitate communication between a residential facility and a dialysis facility, documenting patient status and facility status.

Using a communication form may improve patient care and diminish the risk of the spread of infection.

DSHS – Spanish Version of OOH DNR

[DSHS Released a Spanish Version of Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order](#)

DSHS has released a Spanish version of the current Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate (OOH DNR) order.

Both the English and Spanish versions can be downloaded on the [EMS and Trauma Systems website](#), along with "Frequently Asked Questions About OOH DNR," also in both languages.

For questions related to OOH DNR orders, email EMSInfo@dshs.texas.gov.

Winter and Extreme Freezing Weather Preparedness

[LTC Winter and Extreme Freezing Weather Preparedness](#)

Review and update emergency plans for freezing temperatures and snow.

Emergency plans for extreme weather should include the ALF'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 Freezing Weather Preparedness

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

ALFs 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.

It is important to 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 and have a plan in place for how to move residents around or out of the building if there is a loss of power.

CDC's COVID-19 Data Review

Panelist

Bijendra Bhandari

Infection Prevention Policy Specialist

Policy and Rules | LTC Regulation

CDC's COVID-19 Data Review

CDC Report

COVID-19 Data Review: Update on COVID-19-Related Mortality

- There were signs of improvement
- Vaccines continued to be effective in reducing COVID-19-related mortality
- Where and how COVID-19-related deaths occur appear to be changing
- Improvement is needed to decrease risk for COVID-19-related mortality

Handout - Summary of CDC's Update on COVID Deaths

CDC Update on COVID-Related Deaths

- Adults ages 65 years and older continue to have the highest COVID-19-related mortality rates.

- <u>COVID-19 vaccines continue to reduce the risk of COVID-19 deaths among all age groups</u>, including older adults, with the greatest protection observed among people who stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations.

CDC Update on COVID-Related Deaths

Signs of improvement:

- COVID-19–related deaths substantially decreased in the United States in March 2022. During April–early November 2022, this initial decline was largely sustained and the overall number of COVID-19–related deaths remained relatively stable.

- Vaccines continued to be effective in reducing COVID-19–related mortality

COVID-19 Data Review

CDC Update on COVID-Related Deaths

What is changing?

- An increased proportion of COVID-19–related deaths are being reported in settings such as homes, long-term care facilities and hospice facilities than in prior years of the pandemic.

CDC Update on COVID-Related Deaths

Improvement is needed to decrease risk for COVID-19–related mortality.

- During April–September 2022, a higher number of all-cause deaths in the US than expected based on previous years of data.

- Adults aged ≥65 years continued to have the highest COVID-19–related mortality rates.

- Adults aged ≥85 years remained at particularly high risk of dying, with the proportion of COVID-19–related deaths increasing during April–September from ~28% to ~40% of COVID-19–related deaths.

CDC Update on COVID-Related Deaths

- Older adults and people with disabilities and underlying medical conditions continued to account for the highest proportion of COVID-19–related in-hospital deaths.

- COVID-19–related deaths were rare among adults aged 18–49 hospitalized during May–August 2022, but those that did occur were most often among unvaccinated persons.

- COVID-19 vaccines continued to reduce the risk of dying among all age groups, including older adults, with the most protection observed among people who have received ≥2 booster doses.

COVID-19 Data Review

Proactive Infection Control Assessment (ICAR) Visits

Panelist

Eka Okon

Nursing Home Strike Team Coordinator

Department of State Health Services

Proactive Infection Control Assessment (ICAR) Visits

DSHS Healthcare Safety Unit is conducting non-regulatory, proactive infection control assessments (ICAR) to help ALFs reduce health care-associated infections (HAIs).

Benefits include:

- Free access to infection prevention and control (IPC) expert – ask all your infection control questions!

- Review of infection prevention program and practices.

- Feedback and evidence-based resources tailored to your facility's unique needs.

- Non-regulatory, on-site visit to help strengthen your IPC program and prepare for future licensing inspections.

Interested in participating? To schedule your free non-regulatory assessment, email **ICAR@dshs.texas.gov**. Include facility name, address (including county), and point-of-contact.

Handout - Proactive ICAR Flyer

Reportable Diseases

§553.261(f)(3) – ALFs must immediately report the name of any resident with a reportable disease as specified in:

25 TAC Chapter 97 Subchapter A – Control of Communicable Diseases

Report to city health officer, county health officer, or health unit director having jurisdiction.

No longer required to report to CII.

Resident Rights

Reminder: Resident's Bill of Rights – §553.267

- Each resident has the right to participate in activities of social, religious, or community groups unless the participation interferes with the rights of others.

- Each resident has the right to personal visitation with any person of the resident's choice

Architectural Unit Contact Info

HHSC Long-term Care Regulation State Office Architectural Unit has updated their contact information for facility-based long-term care providers.

The LTCR Architectural Unit can be reached by:

- calling 512-438-2371 or
- emailing HHSLTCRArchitecturalUnit@hhs.texas.gov

Webinar Recordings and PDFs

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 the last webinar below:

- September 21, 2022 - ALF Provider Webinar Slides (PDF)
- September 21, 2022 - ALF Provider Webinar Recording

Next scheduled webinar: April 12, 2023

ALF Reorg Draft Rules

January 2023

New **Draft Rules** to be Posted for Informal Comment

- Added time parameters for record retention.

- New section: Resident Transfer and Discharge. These rules are currently in the Resident Rights section. They will now be easier to find.

- New section: Respite Services.

- New section: Voluntary Closure.

- Revamped the enforcement subchapter. The text is reformatted so that it is consistent with the rest of the chapter, instead of the current Q&A format.

Comment on Proposed & Draft Rules

Comment on Proposed and Draft Rules

- Draft Rules – Informal Comment
  - Informal opportunities to comment before a rule is published in *Texas Register*
  - Stakeholders submit comments on potential rule changes during rule development

- Proposed Rules – Formal Comment
  - HHS publishes notice in *Texas Register*
  - Public can review/comment on the proposed rule
  - Public comment period lasts 30 days

Receive notices for draft and proposed rule notifications thru **GovDelivery** (see next slide).

Gov Delivery
HHS Rulemaking

Sign up for GovDelivery:

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

- Under 'Meetings, News and Reports'

- Check 'HHS Rulemaking'

⊟ ☐ **Meetings, News and Reports**

    ☐ Handbook Updates and Policy Bulletins

    ☐ HHS Advisory Committees

    ☑ HHS Rulemaking

    ☐ HHS Transformation and Innovation 📱

Receive e-mail notification for:
- Draft Rules
- Proposed Rules
- Public Comment Periods

Gov Delivery Provider Alerts

Sign up for GovDelivery:

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

- Under 'Provider Alerts'

- Check 'Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) Resources'

⊟ ☐ **Provider Alerts**

    ☐ Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)

    ☑ Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) Resources

    ☐ Assisted Living and Residential Care (ALRC) Resources

    ☐ Community Attendant Services (CAS)

Receive e-mail notification for:
- Provider Alerts
- Webinar Notices
- Provider Letter Notices

Training Opportunities

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-19webinarsforltc

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

Joint Training Survey

Joint Training Availability Survey

Long-term Care providers are invited to complete a short survey about alternative or after-hours Joint Training opportunities.

Take the survey to provide your feedback.

The survey ends Jan. 31, 2023.

LTC Ombudsman

Patty Ducayet

State Long-term Care Ombudsman

Telework Phone: (512) 438-4356

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

Q&A

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

Thank you!