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

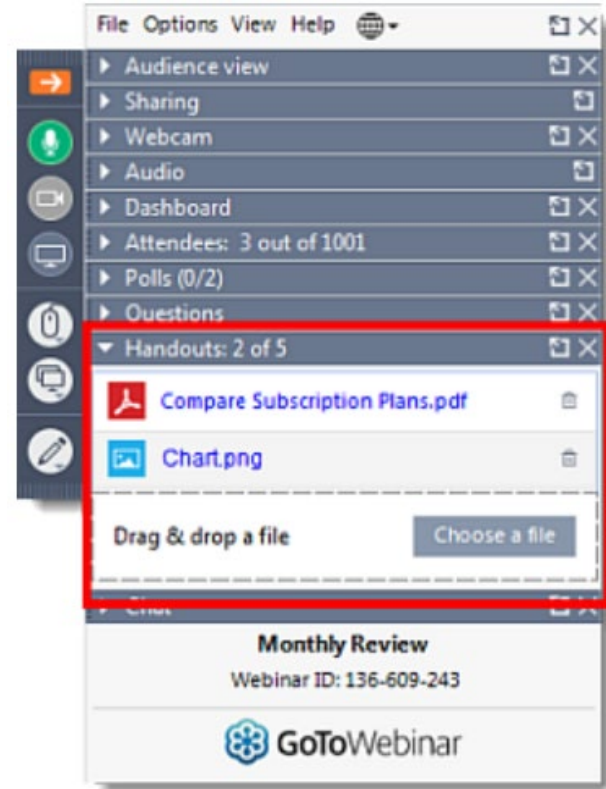
January 12, 2022



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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.





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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](#)
 - [§553.2004](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
 - [ALF FAQ](#)
- [Provider Letters](#)



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Correction

For those of you that attended the *Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas* webinar, there was an incorrect phone number given for Mobile COVID-19 vaccination services.

The correct phone number to request Mobile COVID-19 vaccination services is:

- **844-90-TEXAS(83927)**



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PL 2021-44

PL 2021-44 Active, Unemployable Work-Around

Continue to check an applicant's criminal history, Nurse Aide Registry status, and Employee Misconduct Registry. Use:

- HHSC Employability Status Search at <https://emr.dads.state.tx.us/DadsEMRWeb/> **and**
- check the [Active but unemployable Excel File](#)

PL 2021-44 is a temporary measure that allows HHSC to document people as "Active, Unemployable" while the searchable database is upgraded.

Once the new database is online and approved for use, HHSC will re-issue the PL with the end date to go back to normal.

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.

Quarantine and Isolation - Reminder



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The CDC has recently updated and shortened the recommended isolation and quarantine period for the **general population**.

Quarantine and isolation recommendations for [healthcare personnel](#) have **not changed**.

Guidance for LTCF Experiencing Shortages



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The [document](#) provides guidance for facilities facing staffing shortages related to COVID-19 including a staffing contingency checklist and important information regarding:

- Sharing staff
- Allowing asymptomatic staff who have had COVID-19 exposure to work
- Allowing staff with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 who are well enough and willing to work, but have not met all return-to-work criteria
- Requesting emergency staffing from LTCR

COVID-19 Cases Rise – Guidance for LTC Providers



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COVID-19 cases are increasing across Texas. HHSC reminds providers to follow the guidelines listed below and ensure their emergency plan is up-to-date. Staff must be aware of what to do in the event of any sort of emergency, including an outbreak of flu or COVID-19.

Please review the following guidelines and rules:

- COVID-19 mitigation and visitation rules
- ALF COVID-19 response plan
- Your facility's own infection prevention and control policies

Find COVID-19 resources on:

- [Your provider portal under the COVID-19 Resources section](#)
- [The HHSC COVID-19 Provider Information page](#)

COVID-19 Cases Rise – Guidance for LTC Providers



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Your vigilance following infection control requirements can make a difference in protecting vulnerable Texans.

LTC providers are always required to provide services to residents or clients before, during and after an emergency. The emergency plan or policy must include:

- Planning for staff shortages.
- A back-up plan to ensure operations and care of resident or clients continue.

Read program specific rules related to staffing, emergency preparedness and infection control.

- [Assisted Living Facilities](#)

A [checklist \(PDF\)](#) is available to assist you with creating a plan for dealing with an outbreak of flu or COVID-19.

HHS Website Redesign



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The HHS website, hhs.texas.gov, has been updated to improve how users search and navigate content, helping connect them to services and program information with ease. Enhancements include:

- Homepage content
- Page width
- Desktop and mobile menu
- Site searches
- Fewer expandable lists
- Mobile navigation



ALF Portal

The [ALF Provider Portal](#) is part of the HHS website redesign.

The screenshot displays the Texas Health and Human Services website. The header includes the state logo, navigation menu (Home, Services, Providers, Business, Regulations, About, News, Contact), and a search bar. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Providers > Long-term Care Providers > Assisted Living Facilities (ALF). The main heading is "Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)". Below it, there is a link for "How to Become an ALF Provider". The section "What is an Assisted Living Facility?" provides a definition and lists two types: Type A (no routine attendance) and Type B (requires staff assistance). A link to a PDF brochure is provided. On the right, there are two call-to-action boxes: a blue one for "Questions about enrolling?" with a phone number, and a red one for "Visit the Texas Unified Licensure Information Portal (TULIP) website" with a "Go to TULIP" button. A "COVID-19 Resources" link is at the bottom.

- COVID-19 Resources
- Statutes & Rules
- Provider Communication
- Webinars
- Training
- Contact Program Staff

Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas – Webinar



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Webinar recordings now available for review:
<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/covid-19webinarsfortc>

- Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas ALFs 12/2021

All webinar content is subject to change and information may no longer be current or relevant. It is each providers responsibility to stay up-to-date with all rules and regulations as the COVID-19 pandemic situation evolves.

No CE or certificates of attendance are offered for viewing these recorded webinars.

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.



PL 2021-41 HMAs

HHSC LTCR has published [PL 2021-41, Health Maintenance Activities \(HMAs\)](#).

The provider letter:

- Explains what HMAs are and how they can be used in ALFs
- Lists some examples of HMAs
- Discusses the RN assessment of the client
- Contains FAQs on HMAs

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.

Vaccine – Booster Dose



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Booster doses - for when antibody protection has waned over time.

For CDC info on who is eligible for a booster and when to get a booster, visit [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#).

Which booster should you get?

[Any of the COVID-19 vaccines](#) authorized in the United States.



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Fully Vaccinated

Am I still considered “fully vaccinated” if I don’t get a booster shot?

Yes. Everyone is still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-shot series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.



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



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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](#).



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STEAR

State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) – provides local emergency planners with additional information on the needs in their community

- Register online at <https://tdem.texas.gov/stear/>
- There is a map on the STEAR website that shows which jurisdictions have enrolled.
- Registration should be renewed annually. The program sends out reminders to do so at the beginning of each year.



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.



Reminders

- All ALFs **must** offer a complete series of a one- or two-dose COVID-19 vaccine to residents/staff and document each resident's choice to vaccinate or not.
- ALFs no longer submit attestation form or receive approved visitation designation and plexiglass barriers or booths no longer required for indoor visits.
- ALFs **must** develop and enforce policies/procedures that ensure infection control practices, including whether visitor/resident must wear a mask.



Reminders

ALF **must** offer a complete series of a one- or two-dose COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff and document each resident's choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate.

"Offer":

Administer
or
Arrange/Assist
or
Educate/Give
Info

AND

Document the
resident's
choice to
vaccinate or
not vaccinate.



Visitation

All ALFs **must** allow visitation.

- ALF must screen all individuals who enter the facility prior to entry
- ALF can allow both scheduled and unscheduled visits
- Use of scheduled visits must not prohibit or limit visitation
- All visits must allow time for cleaning and sanitization of specific areas used during visitation



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.

COVID-19 and Allergy Symptoms



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What do you do if staff have a symptom listed in the screening criteria but claim it is due to allergies?

If during any screening procedure a staff member self-reports symptoms that could be consistent with COVID-19, that staff member should be prepared to provide evidence that the symptoms are not due to COVID-19 infection.

An ALF may choose to take additional precautions in situations where someone presents with a symptom or symptoms listed in the screening criteria, but the symptoms are being attributed to something other than COVID-19.



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](#)
- [Delta Variant FAQs](#)

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:

- [December 8, 2021 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [December 8, 2021 - 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

February ALF Provider COVID-19 Webinar



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ALF Provider COVID-19 Webinar

- February 9



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

Joint Training Opportunities

Seminar	Date/Time	Location	Class Availability
January 2022			
Culture Change: Improving Quality of Life in Long Term Care (course description)	Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Flynn Parkway Tower 5155 Flynn Parkway Room: 618 Corpus Christi, TX 78411 (30 MAX)	Cancelled
CNA Series: The Role of the CNA - Part 1 (course description)	Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Webinar (100 MAX)	<input type="button" value="Register for Webinar"/>
CNA Series: The Role of the CNA - Part 2 (course description)	Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Webinar (100 MAX)	<input type="button" value="Register for Webinar"/>
Culture Change: Improving Quality of Life in Long Term Care (course description)	Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Health and Human Service Commission (HHSC) 1328 Oakhurst Dr	Cancelled



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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-19webinarsforltc>

- Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas ALFS
- Creating a Culture of Normalcy within COVID-19
- Meaningful Activities in ALFs within COVID-19 Regulations
- Flu & COVID-19: What You Need to Know

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.”

LTC Ombudsman – Why Get a Booster Shot



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Texas LTC Ombudsman information about COVID-19 Vaccines and Boosters for LTC residents and their family members.

Why Get a COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster?

- What we know about vaccines and booster shots
- How to get a vaccine or booster shot
- Concerns about getting vaccinated



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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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Thank you!
