



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Welcome to the**

**ALF Provider**

**Webinar with LTCR**

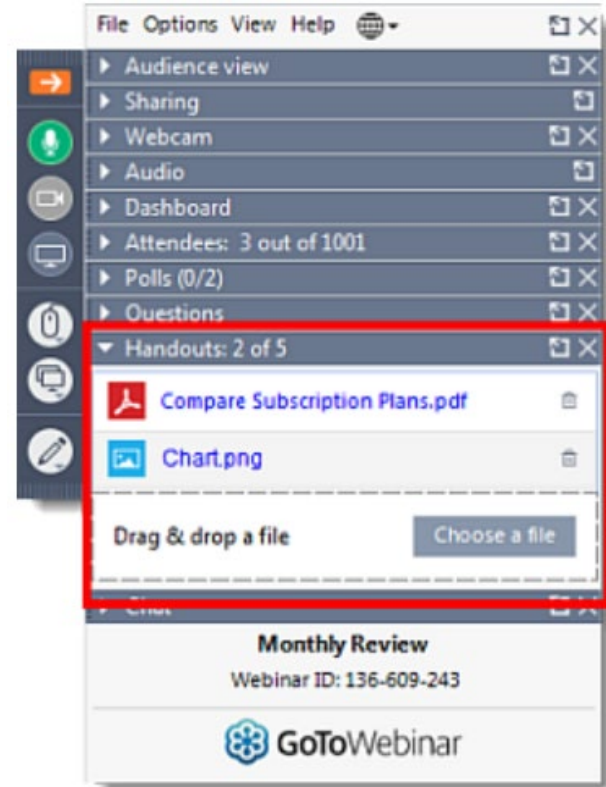
**July 12, 2023**



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# 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:

- [Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Common Infections in LTC Facilities](#)
- [Provider Letters](#)
- [FAQ](#) – Frequently Asked Questions for ALF Providers

# 2023 Hurricane Season

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

**Reminder:** Atlantic hurricane season runs June 1–Nov. 30.

Facilities must follow emergency preparedness rules in [26 TAC §553.275](#) and their own internal emergency preparedness policies and procedures.

Providers affected by an adverse event, such as severe weather, or expect they will need to temporarily exceed capacity due to a disaster, should contact their HHSC [LTC Regulatory regional office](#).

# Extreme Weather Preparedness

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

## Extreme Weather Preparedness

Reminder for ALFs to review and update safety procedures and emergency plans for extreme weather. Emergency plans for extreme weather should include the facility's plan to address:

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



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Risk Assessment

---

Determine all the disasters that can affect your facility or agency, not just extreme weather and hurricanes.

Include in your risk assessment:

- Natural and man-made disasters;
- Intentional and unintentional disasters;
- Internal and external disasters; and
- Disasters that might occur with or without warning.

# Risk Assessment (Cont)

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Consider questions such as:

- Can a fire in a nearby house or building spread to your facility?
- Can a wildfire reach your facility?
- Is your facility near a site that has hazardous materials (such as a chemical, nuclear, or industrial plant)?
- Do vehicles or trains transport hazardous materials (such as chlorine gas) near your facility?
- What is your plan if your facility computer system is affected by cyber-terrorism or a computer virus?

# Risk Assessment (Cont)

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Consider questions such as:

- Is there a natural gas pipeline near your facility?
- Can a disaster leave your facility surrounded by polluted water?
- Is your facility in a concentrated urban environment that might be the target of airborne bio-terrorism?
- Are you located in a flood zone area?
- Have you planned for an epidemic, air contamination or infestation?
- Are you in a hurricane evacuation zone? (To find out whether you are in a hurricane evacuation zone, dial 211.)



# Emergency Preparedness Reminders

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Although generators are not required, facilities with generators should perform any maintenance or needed testing. This will ensure the equipment functions in case of power loss.

It is important to review building integrity and identify any areas that may need repair, reinforcement or weatherproofing.

# Emergency Preparedness Reminders

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Facilities in multi-story buildings should review any other needed measures as well.

- Can all residents evacuate if the elevators don't work?
- Do you have a place on each floor where residents can gather?

# Emergency Preparedness Reminders (Cont)

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Have a plan in place for how to move residents around or out of the building if there is a loss of power or other identified need to move to a safer location.

- What will you do if the facility loses power and the AC goes out?

# Emergency Plan Review

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

A facility must review its emergency preparedness and response plan **at least annually** and after the following events:

- To reflect changes in information, including when an evacuation waiver is approved;
- Within 30 days following a disaster or emergency;
- Within 30 days after a drill if a shortcoming is identified; and
- Within 30 days after a change in facility policy or HHSC rule that would impact the plan.

**When was the last time you reviewed your plan?**

# Emergency Preparedness Regional Office Contact

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Facilities should contact their local [HHSC Regulatory Services regional office \(RO\)](#) if they are impacted by an adverse event caused by severe weather — such as flooding, power loss, etc.

This communication is especially critical if a facility is projected to exceed its licensed capacity due to accepting residents that have been evacuated from another facility.

All requests to exceed licensed capacity must be made through the RO and approved by the Deputy Associate Commissioner of Survey and Compliance.



# Blackboard Connect

---

ALF rules at [26 TAC §553.275\(p\)](#) require the **facility manager and designee** to register with the emergency communication system and respond to requests through the emergency communication system.

Designee - someone associated with the licensed building or responsible for emergency communications. In addition to the manager and designee, you can also have other staff sign up.

When registering, do not use a generic position/title email address.

Refer to [PL 2022-32](#) for instructions and additional information.

# Licensure System for Nurse Aides and Medication Aides

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Effective July 5, 2023, nurse aides (NA), medication aides (MA), NATCEPs, and providers will complete all licensing applications in TULIP.

[PL 2023-14](#) provides important dates and information related to TULIP's benefits and features.

TULIP will make the LTCR Credentialing licensure process more efficient and convenient for licensees (NA and MA).

Licensees will be able to electronically conduct all licensure activities including payment of fees.

# Licensure System for NA and MA (Cont)

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

TULIP will also provide immediate access to licensure and approval information, including updates and notifications from HHSC.

Effective July 5, 2023, HHSC will not accept or process paper forms that are emailed, mailed or faxed to HHSC. These forms will be returned to the nurse aide/employer with instructions on how to submit via TULIP.

For questions, please contact the Licensing and Credentialing Section by email or phone:

- [Medication Aide Unit](#), 512-438-2025
- [Nurse Aide Registry](#), 512-438-2050
- [NATCEP](#), 512-438-2017



# 2023 Quality in Long-Term Care Conference



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Texas HHSC, along with the University of Texas Steve Hicks School of Social Work, will host the 2023 Quality in Long-Term Care Conference in person at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin on Aug. 22–23.

Theme: “Making a Commitment to Person-Centered Long-Term Care.”

Presentation topics include:

- Caring for people with dementia.
- Infection prevention and control.
- Long COVID considerations in long-term care
- Current health care trends.
- Cutting-edge advances in long-term care, aging and disability services.

The conference is free to attend, and continuing education credit will be available for various healthcare disciplines. [Register for the conference here.](#)

For more information about this event, [visit the registration webpage](#) or [email UT Steve Hicks School of Social Work.](#)



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Legislative Implementation

---

**Not effective yet**

**Anticipated effective date - Sept 2024**

Bill implementation from 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session(R)

- HB 1673 - Alzheimer's training for managers, direct care staff, other staff.

# ALF Reorganization Rule Update

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

## Update

ALF reorg rule project

- 30-day Formal Comment period

# Expedited PPE Delivery for LTC Providers



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

## [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](http://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.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# 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



# 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:

- [April 12, 2023 - ALF Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [April 12, 2023 - ALF Webinar Recording](#)

Next scheduled webinar: October 11, 2023

# Gov Delivery Provider Alerts



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

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

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Long-term Care Regulation staff and program providers are invited to attend upcoming trainings.

Please visit the [Provider Joint Training website](#), for a full listing of joint training opportunities and course descriptions.

**Reminder** - verify if registering for a webinar or in-person class. If you register for any classes and cannot attend, please cancel your registration.





TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# LTC Ombudsman

---



**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)



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Q&A

---



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# How to Contact

---

## **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)

## **ALF Provider Portal**

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



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

**Thank you!**

---