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Welcome to the

ALF Provider

Webinar with LTCR

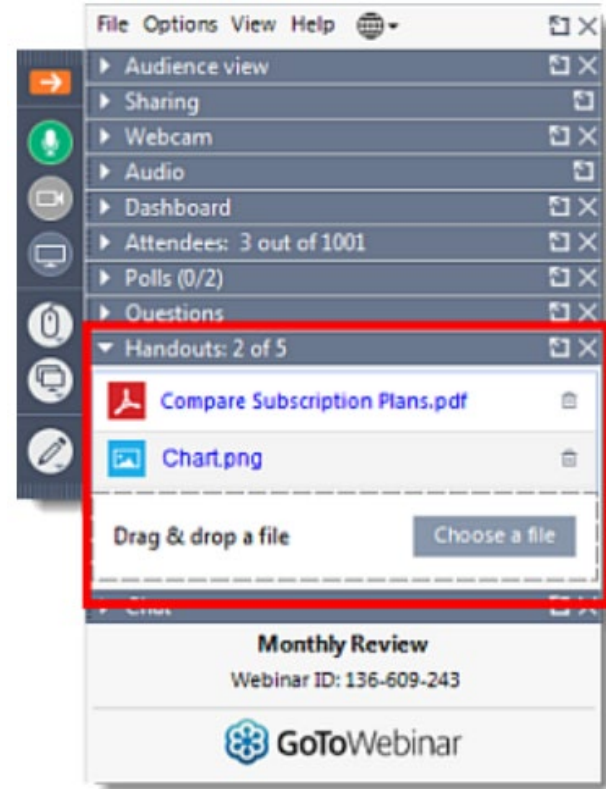
July 13, 2022



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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:

- [26 TAC Chapter 570](#) – LTC Rules during Public Health Emergency
- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
- [§553.2001](#) – Mitigation Rule (expires on 7/31)
- [ALF FAQ](#) – Updated 7/11
- [Provider Letters](#)



Expired Rules

The following emergency rules have expired:

- Visitation
- Vaccination Reporting

Reminder - As of May 5, LTC providers may no longer request emergency staffing resources.

The State Operations Center operated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management ceased COVID-19 response operations on May 5.

Expired Rules – Cont.



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Now that the emergency rules have expired, please remember that visitation is a resident right.

ALFs must develop their own policies and procedures regarding masks, social distancing guidelines and additional protocols for PPE.

ALFs are responsible for all infection control protocols in [§553.261\(f\)](#) to ensure the health and safety of residents as the pandemic continues. ALFs should use CDC guidance to assist in developing protocols.



CDC Guidance

CDC Links:

- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes](#)



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Mitigation Rule

Mitigation Rule [§553.2001](#) still in effect, but we anticipate it will expire on July 31.

- ALF must screen all residents, staff, and people who come to the facility
- ALF must report COVID-19 activity (first confirmed case and first case after 14 days)



Screening

Until 7/31, 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

Reporting COVID-19 Activity



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Until 7/31, ALFs must notify CII 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

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.



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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



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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

Review Policies and Procedures



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Reminders:

- ALFs must develop and enforce policies and procedures for infection control
- Review all written standards, policies, and procedures
- Consider 'lessons learned'

Reminder – 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.

PL 2022-13 Revised



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[PL 2022-13](#) announces [new rules](#) (Chapter 570) relating to the right of residents in certain LTC facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation and in-person visitation of religious counselors with certain health care facility residents during a public health emergency. The revision includes information regarding how a facility may petition HHSC to suspend in-person essential caregiver visits.

LTC Rules during Public Health Emergency



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Permanent pandemic rule in effect 6/1.

[Chapter 570](#)

[570.2](#) Definitions

[570.111](#) Visitation

[570.113](#) Essential Caregiver Visits

COVID-19 Vaccines and Boosters



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

As of June 24, CDC recommends COVID-19 primary series vaccines for everyone ages 6 months and older, and COVID-19 boosters for everyone ages 5 years and older, if eligible.

Review CDC recommendations on the [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines page](#).



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Vaccine Boosters

Use [CDC's COVID-19 booster tool](#) to learn if and when you can get boosters to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.



When are You Up to Date?

You are **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for you, when eligible.

- Learn more about [COVID-19 vaccine recommendations specifically for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.](#)
- Vaccine recommendations are different depending on your age, the vaccine you first received, and time since last dose, as shown on the following slide.

CDC Vaccine Recommendations



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CDC Vaccine Recommendations for Adults

	Primary Series	1 st Booster	2 nd Booster	Up to Date
Pfizer	2 doses, 3-8 weeks apart	5 months after primary series	For 50+, 4 months after 1 st booster	Immediately after getting all recommended boosters
Moderna	2 doses, 4-8 weeks apart	5 months after primary series	For 50+, 4 months after 1 st booster	Immediately after getting all recommended boosters
J&J/Janssen	1 dose	2 months after J&J/Janssen vaccine	For 50+, 4 months after 1 st booster	Immediately after getting all recommended boosters



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COVID-19 Therapeutics Available for LTC Provider Onsite Use

LTC facilities wanting to provide COVID-19 therapeutics must first enroll as a therapeutics provider with DSHS by [emailing DSHS Therapeutics](#) or calling Provider Support at 833-832-7068, Option 0.

HHSC Long-term Care Regulation is reminding providers about this due to an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Once approved, providers may order directly from the [Health Partner Ordering Portal](#).

Therapeutics Availability and Clinical Considerations



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Texas pharmacies have Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir), which is the first line treatment per the [NIH Treatment Guidelines](#) for high-risk patients with symptomatic COVID-19 infection.

Use the [HHS Therapeutics Locator](#) to find the nearest pharmacy to your resident with Paxlovid in stock. Staff and residents can also access [Federal Test to Treat Sites](#) to receive testing and access to the prescription at the same location.

Additional clinical considerations for Paxlovid can be found in the [NIH Treatment Guidelines section on Paxlovid](#).

Find additional resources for therapeutics on the [DSHS Information for COVID-19 Therapeutics Providers webpage](#).



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ALF Residents

Upcoming provider letter.

ALF resident **must** be age 18 or older, or emancipated minor.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



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[Information Letter 2022-30 American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Home and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Provider Retention Payments](#)

All ARPA questions go to [Provider Finance Department](#).

Email: ProviderFinanceDept@hhs.texas.gov



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Extreme Heat

Texas Ready - Extreme Heat

Exposure to extreme heat can create serious health problems, resulting in a condition known as heatstroke.

Usually the elderly, the very young, those with other health conditions, and those without access to air conditioning or a source for hydration are most severely affected by heat.



Symptoms of Heat Exposure

Symptoms of heat exposure complications:

- Heavy sweating
- Muscle cramps
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Weak, but rapid pulse
- Headaches

At first symptoms of heat-related complications, move to a cooler place, rest a few minutes, then slowly drink a beverage, preferably water, for rehydration.

Seek medical attention immediately if conditions do not improve.

2022 Hurricane Season



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Long-term care providers in Texas are reminded to review their emergency preparedness and response plans with special focus on Atlantic hurricane season, which runs June 1–Nov. 30.

LTC providers should make updates, if necessary.

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

Please refer to your [program's rules](#) for more important information regarding emergency preparedness.

2022 Hurricane Season

<Continued>

Providers should factor in COVID-19 contingencies when reviewing their preparedness plans. For example:

- Are your receiving facilities and transportation contracts still viable?
- If your provider type is allowed to evacuate to a hotel and that is in your plan, are hotels open in your destination?
- How will you maintain infection control measures during evacuation or sheltering-in-place?
- If you have COVID-19 positive persons in your facility, how will that affect evacuation or sheltering-in-place?
- How will you make sure personal protective equipment is available in addition to food and medicine?



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2022 Quality in LTC Conference



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HHS, in collaboration with The University of Texas Steve Hicks School of Social Work, will host an informative two-day, free conference on quality in long-term care.

2022 QLTC "Resilient, Responsive and Ready"

Aug. 11–12

Renaissance Austin Hotel

9721 Arboretum Blvd.

Austin, TX 78759

[Register for the conference.](#)

Continuing education credits for multiple disciplines will be provided for this event from nationally and internationally recognized experts.

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



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](#)

Architectural Unit Contact Info



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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 last month's webinar below:

- [June 15, 2022 - ALF Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [June 15, 2022 - ALF Webinar Recording](#)

Next scheduled webinar: Sept 14, 2022



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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.



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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



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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!
