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Welcome to the

ALF Provider

Webinar with LTCR

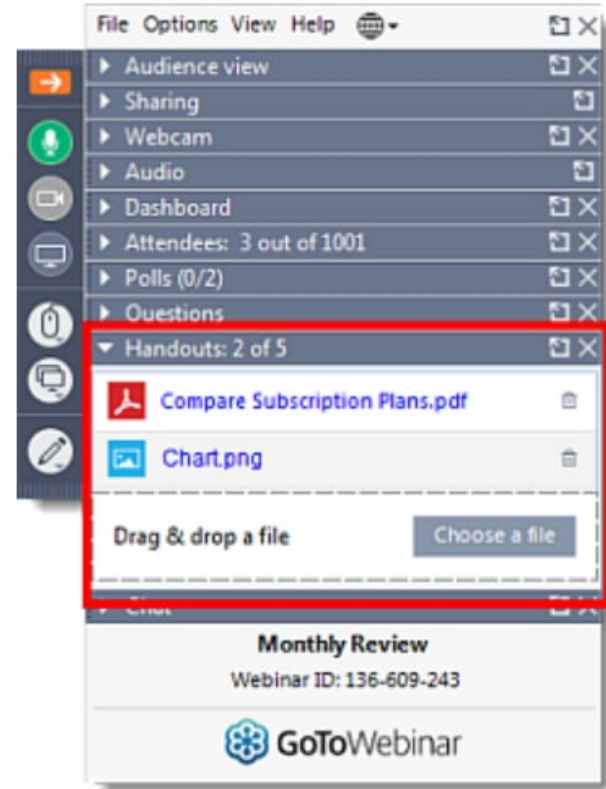
June 15, 2022



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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:

- [26 TAC Chapter 570](#) – LTC Rules during Public Health Emergency
- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
 - [§553.2001](#) – Mitigation Rule
 - [§553.2003](#) – Visitation Rule expires 6/16
- Frequently Asked Questions
 - [ALF FAQ](#)
- [Provider Letters](#)



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 before Atlantic hurricane season begins, which runs June 1–Nov. 30. LTC providers should make updates, if necessary.

Providers affected by an adverse event, such as severe weather, or expects it will 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 QLTCC “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](#).



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Visitation Rule

Visitation Rule [§553.2003](#) set to expire on 6/16/2022.



Mitigation Rule

Mitigation Rule [§553.2001](#) still in effect.

- (b) ALF must have COVID-19 response plan
- (d) ALF must screen all residents, staff, and people who come to the facility
- (g) ALF must develop and enforce policies and procedures for infection control
- (h) ALF must report COVID-19 activity (first confirmed case and first case after 14 days)

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

Look for upcoming guidance.



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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

ALF Reorganization



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Reminder – ALF Reorganization

- Internal review process
- Informal public comment (2 weeks)
- Formal comment



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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](#).

2022 LTC Nurse Staffing Survey



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The Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies has extended the deadline for the 2022 Long-term Care Nurse Staffing Study to June 24. The survey contains questions related to vacancy and turnover rates, COVID-19 response, workplace violence against nurses and other topics relevant to nursing.

The purpose of this survey is to assess nurse staffing issues among employers of nurses throughout the state and to gather data that helps nursing advocates and lawmakers make informed decisions regarding the nursing shortage in Texas.

TCNWS is the only organization that collects this important information. Survey results can only be published if the response rate is high enough, and enough responses haven't been received to report data.

HHSC urges directors of nursing, or other employers of nurses, to participate to ensure valid, reliable and representative data is available to support recommendations and policy aimed at strengthening the nursing workforce in Texas.

[Take the survey.](#)

Expired Rule – Vaccination Reporting



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Emergency rules that required COVID-19 vaccination reporting expired May 5.

This means that effective May 6, ALFs no longer have to report COVID-19 **vaccination** amongst staff and residents to HHSC via Survey Monkey.

The following rule expired May 5:

- 26 TAC §553.2004 – Assisted Living Facility

Note: ALFs are still required to report positive COVID-19 cases to CII.

Reporting COVID-19 Activity



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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.

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 - Screening



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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

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.
- [CDC link for mask guidance – source control measures](#)

Vaccination and Booster



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

As of April 2nd, the CDC recommends that you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have followed the current recommendations listed on the [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines page](#).

Vaccination and Booster



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A person is fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving all recommended doses in the primary series of their COVID-19 vaccination.

A person is up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination if they have received all recommended doses in the primary series and one booster **when eligible.**

Getting a second booster is not necessary to be considered up to date at this time.

Emergency Staffing Resources



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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.



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](#)



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PL 2022-10

[PL 2022-10 Information on the Texas Election Integrity Protection Act](#) informs facilities about the recent changes to voting laws in Texas and recommends a review of policies and procedures related to voting assistance:

- Person assisting 7 or more voters by providing transportation to polling place must complete a form provided by election officer
- Voter may receive assistance marking or reading a ballot if voter is unable to write or see due to disability
- Person assisting a voter in marking or reading a ballot must complete a form

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:

- [May 18, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [May 18, 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

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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Focused 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!
