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

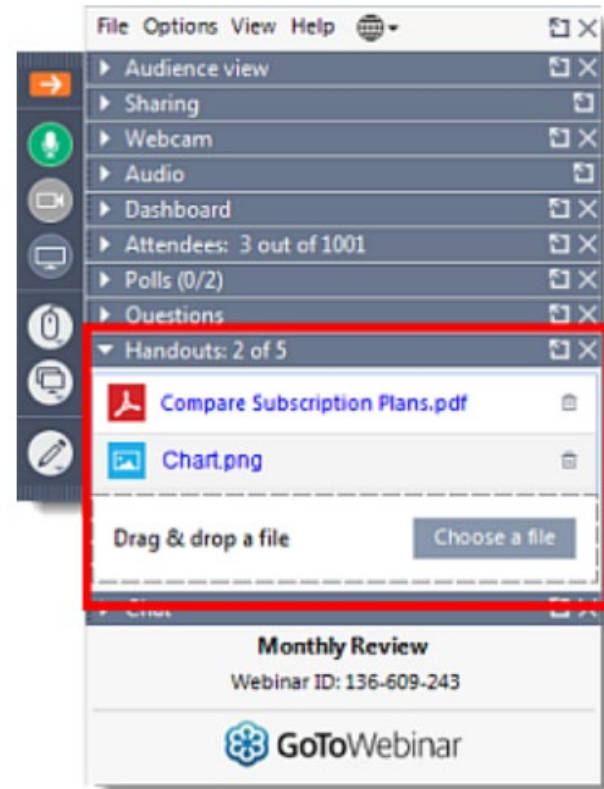
March 23, 2022



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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:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
 - [§553.2001](#)
 - [§553.2003](#)
 - [§553.2004](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
 - [ALF FAQ](#) (Dec. 2021)
- [Provider Letters](#)



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Visitation Rules

[§553.2003](#) visitation rules effective 2/16/22:

- Simpler and more open
- Visits can take place for residents with any COVID status
- Visits may occur in the location of the resident's choice

Visitation Rules – Cont.



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§553.2003 visitation rules effective 2/16/22:

- No restrictions on salon visits
- No requirement to clean and sanitize between visits
- Facilities must continue to follow infection control protocols

Visitation Rules – Cont.



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§553.2003 visitation rules effective 2/16/22:

- Outbreak definition added staff who have been in the facility in the last 14 days
- Resident still must designate essential caregivers

Visitation Rules – Cont.



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§553.2003 visitation rules effective 2/16/22:

- Facility must inform all visitors of the facility's infection control policies related to visitation
- No longer required to have handwashing and sanitizing stations – must still follow infection control procedures

Guidance – Staffing Shortages



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Reminder for assisted living and nursing facility providers experiencing staffing shortages due to COVID-19.

Read the [guidance](#).

This document includes language to align with [CDC](#) guidance and terms.

Emergency Staffing Requests



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ALERT - Emergency Staffing Requests

- The state cannot provide staffing assistance within 24 hrs.
- Staffing assistance may take 2-3 days.
- Not all requests for emergency staffing will be fulfilled.
- Indicate level of need on request to aid in prioritization.
- Email questions to your [regional director](#).

Visitation Reminder



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ALERT – Visitation Reminder

- All visitation **must** be allowed for all residents with any COVID-19 status.
- A facility may be cited if visitation is not allowed.

Review ALF visitation rules: §553.2003

CDC Infection Control Guidance



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CDC - [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for HCP](#) (updated 2/2/22)

CDC recommends counseling residents about [strategies to protect themselves and others](#).

CDC has a [number of resources for older adults](#).

CDC Isolation and Work Restriction Guidance



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CDC - [Isolation and work restriction guidance](#) for healthcare personnel

- Asymptomatic HCP who have recovered from COVID infection in the prior 90 days **do not** require work restriction following a higher-risk exposure.
- Asymptomatic HCP who have had a higher-risk exposure **do not** require work restriction if they are [up to date](#) with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses and do not develop symptoms or test positive for COVID.

CDC – Work Restrictions for HCP with Infection and Exposure



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Work Restrictions for HCP With SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Exposures

"Up to Date" with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses is defined in [Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines | CDC](#)

For more details, including recommendations for healthcare personnel who are immunocompromised, have severe to critical illness, or are within 90 days of prior infection, refer to [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#) (conventional standards) and [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#) (contingency and crisis standards).

Work Restrictions for HCP With SARS-CoV-2 Infection

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Up to Date and Not Up to Date	10 days OR 7 days with negative test [†] , if asymptomatic or mild to moderate illness (with improving symptoms)	5 days with/without negative test, if asymptomatic or mild to moderate illness (with improving symptoms)	No work restriction, with prioritization considerations (e.g., types of patients they care for)

Work Restrictions for Asymptomatic HCP with SARS-CoV-2 Exposures

Vaccination Status	Conventional	Contingency	Crisis
Up to Date	No work restrictions, with negative test on days 1 [‡] and 5-7	No work restriction	No work restriction
Not Up to Date	10 days OR 7 days with negative test [†]	No work restriction with negative tests on days 1 [‡] , 2, 3, & 5-7 (if shortage of tests prioritize Day 1 to 2 and 5-7)	No work restrictions (test if possible)

[†]Negative test result within 48 hours before returning to work

[‡]For calculating day of test: 1) for those with infection consider day of symptom onset (or first positive test if asymptomatic) as day 0; 2) for those with exposure consider day of exposure as day 0



11/18/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/mitigating-staff-shortages.html>

CDC – Stay Up to Date with Your Vaccines



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[CDC - Get Vaccinated and Stay Up to Date](#)

- **Up to date** means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible.
- **Fully vaccinated** means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.

CDC Booster Guidance



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Updated CDC Booster Guidance

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots
Updated Feb. 2, 2022 Languages Print

Choosing Your COVID-19 Booster Shot

Three COVID-19 vaccines are authorized or approved for use in the United States to prevent COVID-19. Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (COVID-19 mRNA vaccines) are preferred. You may get Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine [in some situations](#).

Who Can Get a Booster Shot

IF YOU RECEIVED	Who should get a booster:	When to get a booster:	Which booster can you get:
Pfizer-BioNTech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Everyone 12 years and older	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least 5 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>



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](#).

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.



PL 2022-09

HHSC Provides Guidance for Requesting COVID-19 Testing Supplies for Providers Without CLIA Waivers (PL 2022-09)

HHSC Long-term Care Regulation has published <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pl2022-09.pdf>.

This letter describes the process for ALF, HCS, HCSSA, ICF and TxHmL providers without a CLIA waiver to enroll for the GenBody-100 COVID-19 Test Administrator Courses through the Prepare Texas website and request testing supplies.

Training Requirements for Nurse Aides and NATCEPs



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[Training Requirements for Nurse Aides and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs \(Provider Letter 2022-04\) \(PDF\)](#).

The letter provides guidance about the recently-amended rules for NATCEP providers and certified nurse aides in [Title 26, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 556](#).

The amended rules add infection control training requirements for both a NATCEP and a CNA.

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.



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.



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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.

Marketing Events



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Marketing events are allowed, but they cannot involve residents.

Marketing events are not resident activities.

Resident visits should take priority over marketing events.



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](#)

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

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:

- [February 16, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [February 16, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Recording](#)

Upcoming Webinars

ALF webinars will no longer be limited to COVID information. Upcoming webinars will include general provider information

Webinars will be scheduled every other month:

- No webinar in April
- Next webinar will be May 18

To submit a discussion topic for upcoming webinars:

- send an email to LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov
- use subject line "ALF Webinar Topic"



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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.

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.”



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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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Joint Training Presentation



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Thank you!
