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Welcome to the

ALF Provider

Webinar with LTCR

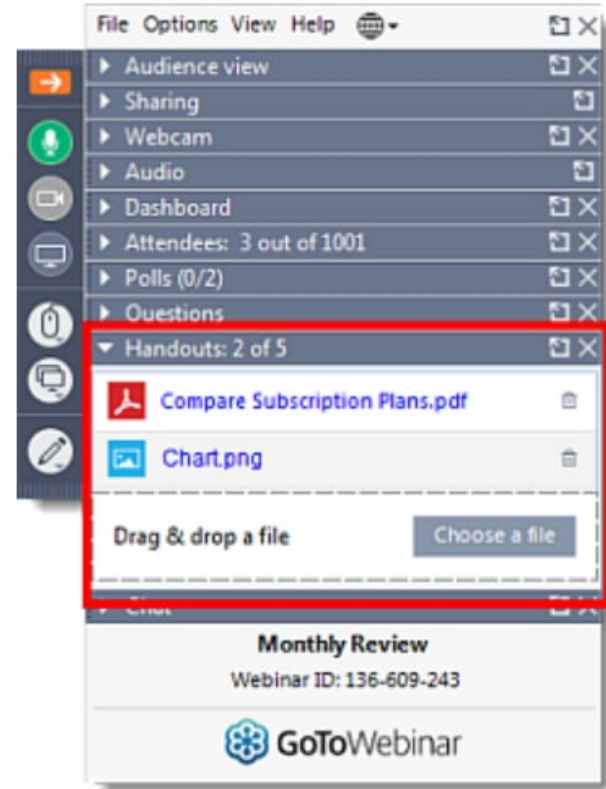
May 18, 2022



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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](#) *Updated 4/18*
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
 - [§553.2001](#)
 - [§553.2003](#)
 - [§553.2004](#) - expired
- Frequently Asked Questions
 - [ALF FAQ](#) *Updated 4/19*
- [Provider Letters](#)

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.

COVID-19 Relief Grants



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SB 8, 87th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, 2021, appropriates funding for the HHSC to issue awards to support Texas healthcare providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. These awards include funding for rural hospitals, NFs, ALFs, home health agencies, ICFs/IID, and providers of community attendant services.

HHSC published new information regarding the COVID-19 in healthcare relief grants for the competitive award processes ("TIER 2") [here](#). We encourage prospective Request for Application (RFA) applicants to review this information outlining general eligibility criteria, RFA application requirements, and anticipated solicitation posting dates for each of the respective RFAs.

Email ProviderFinanceDept@hhs.texas.gov if you have specific questions.

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

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.

Visitation Reminders



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Reminders

- All visits are allowed for residents with any COVID-19 status, including COVID-19 positive residents.
- Ensure physical distancing between visitation groups and safe infection prevention and control measures, including the resident's room.
- The facility must limit the movement of the visitor through the facility to ensure interaction with other persons in the facility is minimized.



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](#)

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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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.



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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

Employability Status Search



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The HHSC Employability Status Search website has been updated.

Facilities are no longer required to follow instructions in PL 21-44 or check the Active but unemployable Excel File.

PL 21-44 and the Active but unemployable Excel File have been removed from the HHSC website.

Chapter 561 – Employee Misconduct Registry



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HHSC Long-term Care Regulation has adopted Texas Administrative Code Title 26, [Chapter 561](#), Employee Misconduct Registry rules. They are effective April 21, 2022.

Key changes to the rule are to:

- Transfer the rule from Title 40 to Title 26
- Replace references to legacy agencies
- Revise the informal review process to reflect current practice

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:

- [April 14, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [April 14, 2022 - ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Recording](#)

Upcoming Webinar



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

The next webinar is scheduled for **June 15.**

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.



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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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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!
