

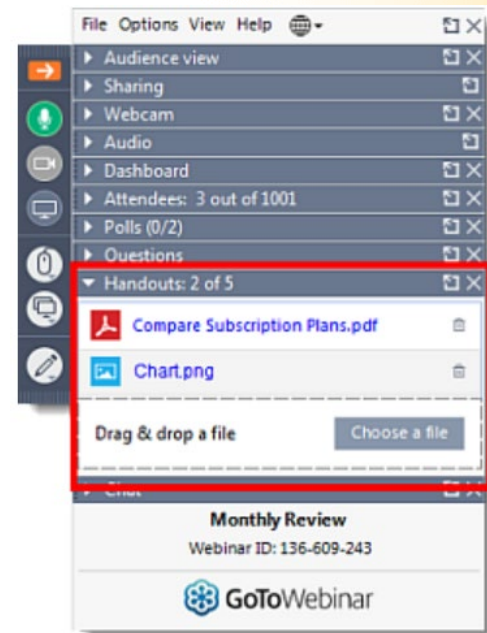


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**Welcome to the**  
**DAHS Provider Webinar**  
**with LTCR**  
**January 25, 2024**

# 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.





# DAHS Resources

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[DAHS Provider Portal](#) - Find answers to most common questions

Resources and tools for DAHSs:

- [DAHS Provider Infection Control Checklist Tool \(PDF\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for DAHS Providers \(PDF\)](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Measures for Common Infections in LTC Facilities \(PDF\)](#)



# Standard Precautions

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Standard precautions used for client care to protect staff from infection and prevent the spread of infection among residents and staff:

- Practicing [Hand Hygiene](#)
- Implementing the use of [Personal Protective Equipment](#) (PPE) when exposure to infectious material is expected
- Following [Respiratory Hygiene and Cough Etiquette procedures](#)
- Implementing correct [Disinfection and Sterilization](#) of instruments and devices.
- Handling [Textiles and Laundry](#) carefully

Refer to CDC webpage for [Standard Precautions](#) for detailed information.



# Blackboard Connect

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DAHS rules at [26 TAC §559.64\(g\)\(1\)](#) require the **facility director 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 director 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.



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# TULIP Credentialing Transition Grace Period Extended

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HHSC is extending a grace period for all NAs, MAs, NFAs and NATCEPs to allow users time to learn and understand the new credentialing system. All NAs certifications, MA permits, NFA licenses and NATCEP approvals active on June 16, 2023, will be considered active until April 30, 2024.

- For registration issues in TULIP, [email TULIP\\_Support@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:TULIP_Support@hhsc.state.tx.us).
- For NA questions, [email NurseAideRegistry@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:NurseAideRegistry@hhs.texas.gov).
- For MA questions, [email Medication Aide Program@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:Medication_Aide_Program@hhs.texas.gov).
- For NFA questions, [email nfa\\_licensing\\_program@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:nfa_licensing_program@hhs.texas.gov).



# Reminder: PL 2023-07

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## [Provider Letter 2023-07, Temporary Closures \(PDF\).](#)

- Temporary closure is defined as cessation of operations for longer than 30 days with plans to resume operations
- Allows DAHS opportunity to temporarily cease operations due to unexpected or unforeseen natural disaster or event.
- Gives DAHSs time to complete repairs and resume operations.
- Each temporary closure is considered on a case-by-case basis.



# Reminder: PL 2023-07 (continued)

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[Provider Letter 2023-07, Temporary Closures \(PDF\).](#)

- Temporary closures at discretion of LTCR
- To request closure, submit request to LTCR Licensing and Credentialing and appropriate regional contact
- Request to reopen must be submitted to LTCR Licensing within 90 days of temporary closure start date
- Facility maintains its license while temporarily closed. License shows as active in TULIP.



# Expedited PPE Delivery for LTC Providers

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## [Expedited PPE Delivery for LTC Providers](#)

This alert informs LTC providers that expedited delivery is available for a limited time for PPE through TDEM.

These items include:

- surgical masks
- N95 masks
- KN95 masks
- Gloves
- hand sanitizer
- disinfectant wipes.

# Expedited PPE Delivery for LTC Providers (cont.)

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## [Expedited PPE Delivery for LTC Providers](#)

LTC providers, 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.



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# Clarification on Licensure Renewals

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- All licensed long-term care providers must submit a renewal application in the Texas Unified Licensure Information Portal (TULIP)
- HHSC encourages providers to submit the application as soon as possible within the 120 days prior to the expiration of their license.
- If the provider is waiting on pending documentation (such as a current fire marshal report)

[Clarification on Licensure Renewals Alert](#)

# Long-Term Care Facility Winter and Extreme Freezing Weather Preparedness

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HHSC reminds long-term care facilities and agencies to review and update emergency plans for freezing temperatures and snow. Emergency plans for extreme weather 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.

[LTC Winter and Extreme Freezing Weather Alert](#)



# Anything in rule to pre warn clients on facility closing?

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A facility's plan must contain a section for communication that:

- Identifies the facility's primary mode of communication
- includes procedures for maintaining a current list of telephone numbers for clients
- includes procedures for maintaining a current list of telephone numbers for the facility's staff
- identifies the location of the lists where facility staff can obtain the lists quickly

[§559.64 Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)



# Anything in rule to pre warn clients on facility closing? (Cont)

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This includes procedures to notify:

- facility staff about an emergency situation
- a receiving facility about an impending or actual evacuation of clients
- clients about the emergency situation

[§559.64 Emergency Preparedness and Response](#)



# Anything in rule to pre warn clients on facility closing?(Cont)

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Describes how the facility will provide, during an emergency situation, general information to the public, such as the change in the facility's location and hours, or that the facility is closed due to the emergency situation;

Includes procedures for the facility to maintain communication with:

- facility staff during an emergency situation;
- a receiving facility if applicable; and
- facility staff who will transport clients

Includes procedures for reporting to HHSC an emergency situation that caused the death or serious injury of a client

# Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

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Facilities are reminded to **review** their emergency preparedness and response plans. LTC providers should make updates, if necessary.

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](#).

Please refer to §559.64 Emergency Preparedness and Response DAHS rules for more important information regarding emergency preparedness.





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# Risk Assessment

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Determine all the disasters that can affect your facility, not just extreme weather.

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)

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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.)

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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.)

# Training Opportunities

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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.



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# Rules Update

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DAHS Modernization and Reorganization  
30-day Public Formal Comment period  
coming in Spring 2024



Upcoming policy guidance to include:

- Provider letters
- Crosswalks
- Webinars/Training

# Upcoming DAHS Rules

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## [26 TAC Chapter 559](#)

DAHS Modernization and Reorganization rule project:

- Reorganizes rule sections so key topics are easier to find
- Adds clarity and specificity to vague rules
- Updates obsolete references
- Implements legislation from 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2023

# DAHS Modernization and Reorganization

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Includes reorganization of:

- [§559.61](#) General Requirements
- [§559.62](#) Program Requirements

Updated rules will have separate rule sections for:

- Compliance
- Client Rights
- Maintenance of Policies and Procedures
- Reporting Incidents of ANE
- Postings
- Staff Qualifications
- Staffing Ratio and Hours
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Staff Responsibilities
- Training
- Medications
- Accident, Injury, or Acute Illness
- Menus
- Client Records
- Peer Review
- Emergency Preparedness and Response



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# Requesting copies of rules

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Go to the SOS's Public Document Request page:

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/pub\\_doc\\_request\\$.startup](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/pub_doc_request$.startup).

Click on:

- Title 26
- Part 1
- 559 "Chapter Request" or, "Subchapters"
- Type in your email address and select submit

Click on the link in your email.

Open the zip file from the email and save the files to your device if desired

[\\*PL 2019-02 Handbooks Discontinued; Instructions for Requesting Rules](#)



# Gov Delivery HHS Rulemaking



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Sign up for GovDelivery:

<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>

- Under 'Meetings, News and Reports'
- Check 'HHS Rulemaking'

- Meetings, News and Reports
- Handbook Updates and Policy Bulletins
  - HHS Advisory Committees
  - HHS Rulemaking
  - HHS Transformation and Innovation 

Receive e-mail notification for:

- Draft Rules
- Proposed Rules
- Public Comment Periods

# Sign-up for Gov Delivery

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## To sign-up for Alerts:

1. Go to:  
<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>
2. Enter your email address.
3. Confirm your email address, select your delivery preference, and submit a password if you want one.
4. Select your topics.



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# How to Contact

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**Jennifer Morrison, Manager**

[Jennifer.morrison@hhs.Texas.gov](mailto:Jennifer.morrison@hhs.Texas.gov)

**Policy Rules and Training Mailbox**

[LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov) (**preferred**)

**PRT Main Line**

(512) 438-3161

**DAHS Contracted Policy Questions**

[dahspolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:dahspolicy@hhs.texas.gov)

**DAHS Provider Portal**

<https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/day-activity-health-services-dahs>



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# **Webinar Q&A**

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**Policy and Rules**



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**Thank you!**

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