



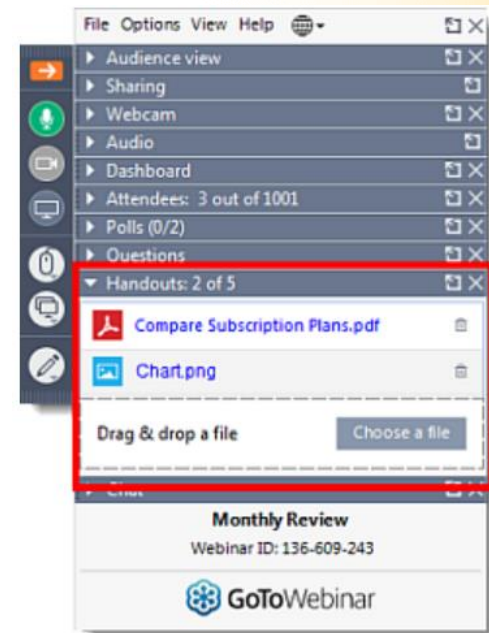
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**Welcome to the  
ALF Provider  
COVID-19 Webinar  
with LTCR**

**April 21, 2021**

# 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.



# COVID-19 Resources

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Available resources and tools for ALFs:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
  - [§553.2001](#)
  - [§553.2003](#)
  - [§553.2004](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
  - [ALF FAQ](#)
- [Provider Letters](#)
- [Texas Division of Emergency Management](#) - interactive map for finding testing resources



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# Webinar Frequency

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ALF Provider COVID-19 webinar frequency is changing from weekly to every other week starting in May.

Upcoming webinar schedule:

- April 28, 2021
- May 5, 2021
- May 19, 2021
- June 2, 2021
- June 16, 2021
- June 30, 2021



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# Vaccination Reporting

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Providers **must** report COVID-19 vaccination data for residents and staff to HHSC within 24 hours of the vaccinations.

HHSC expects providers to report **all** known data, no matter where the vaccine was administered or who administered it.



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# Vaccination Reporting

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<Continued>

A facility that is aware of unreported resident or staff vaccinations must enter those into the survey by April 20, 2021.

Failure to report known vaccinations may result in a citation from HHSC. This supersedes previous guidance.



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# Vaccination Reporting

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<Continued>

For example, the facility must report if:

- The facility hosted a vaccine clinic on site for residents or staff.
- The facility transported residents or staff to an offsite location such as a pharmacy, doctor's office, or vaccine hub for vaccination.
- Individual residents or staff were transported, by family or private transportation, to an offsite location for vaccination.



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# Vaccination Reporting

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<Continued>

Report vaccination data via Survey Monkey tool:

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRDM2GY>
- Report vaccination data for residents and staff, not essential caregivers



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# Johnson & Johnson Vaccine

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DSHS is asking vaccine providers to pause administration of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine following [the recommendation](#) from the CDC and FDA.

- [DSHS Statement on Johnson & Johnson Vaccine](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions > Johnson & Johnson Safety Information](#)

The **Moderna and Pfizer** vaccines are still available, considered safe, and being distributed.



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# Enroll in NHSN COVID-19 Module

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HHSC has published the [National Healthcare Safety Network Long Term Care Facility COVID-19 Module Enrollment \(PDF\)](#). The letter explains who can report into the NHSN COVID-19 module including ALFs.

Enrolling in the NHSN COVID-19 module provides LTC facilities with a secure reporting platform.

The NHSN reporting system has fewer system requirements than the DSHS system. Some providers may prefer its user interface.



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# When to Quarantine Residents and Staff

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Quarantine decision trees for ALF residents and staff available for download in Handout section.

Help you determine when to quarantine residents and staff based on:

- Previous recovery from COVID-19 within the last 90 days
- Vaccination status
- Symptomatic/asymptomatic status



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# Vaccinated Staff

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Fully vaccinated staff with higher-risk exposure\* **do not** have to be restricted from work for 14 days following exposure if they are asymptomatic.

\*Higher-risk exposure means prolonged exposure (a cumulative 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period) to residents with COVID-19 infection when the staff member's eyes, nose, or mouth are not covered.

[CDC Guidance](#) updated March 10.



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# Staffing Shortage due to COVID-19

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CDC [guidance](#) allows asymptomatic, fully vaccinated staff who are not known to be infected to continue working provided:

- Staff should report temperature and absence of symptoms each day before starting work (i.e., staff screening).
- Staff should be tested and, if found to be infected with COVID-19, should be excluded from work until they meet all [Return to Work Criteria](#).



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# Staffing Shortage due to COVID-19

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<Continued>

If staff develop even mild COVID symptoms, they should either not report to work, or stop working and remove themselves from close proximity with residents and notify their supervisor prior to leaving work.



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# When to Quarantine Residents

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For **asymptomatic residents**, quarantine is **no longer** recommended for residents who are being admitted to an ALF if they are:

- fully vaccinated **and**
- have **NOT** had prolonged [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days.



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# When to Quarantine Residents

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<Continued>

This updated quarantine guidance applies to:

- new admissions,
- readmissions, and
- residents who have gone overnight as long as the resident **DID NOT** have prolonged close contact with someone with a COVID-19 infection.



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# Revised ALF Visitation Guidance (PL 2021-12)

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HHSC LTCR published [Provider Letter 2021-12 \(replaces PL 20- 42 and PL 20-23\) COVID-19 Response – Expansion of Reopening Visitation \(PDF\)](#).

The letter clarifies COVID-19 visitation flexibilities permitted by newly revised [ALF Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rules \(PDF\)](#).



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# Visitation Rules

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The rules:

- allow for **less restrictive visitation** once a facility has offered\* a complete series of COVID vaccines to residents and staff and documented each resident's choice to vaccinate or not. See §553.2003(f).

\*Note – *offer* in this context means to administer, arrange/assist, **OR** educate/give information about the COVID-19 vaccine **AND** documented the resident's choice.



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# Visitation Rules

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<Continued>

The rules:

- allow for **more restrictive visitation** if a facility has **NOT** made this offer\* to residents and staff. See §553.2003(g).

\*Note – *offer* in this context means to administer, arrange/assist, **OR** educate/give information about the COVID-19 vaccine **AND** documented the resident's choice.



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# Examples

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Administer

**or**

Arrange/Assist

**or**

Educate/Inform

**and**

Document



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# Visitation

Has the facility administered, arranged, **or** given information about the COVID-19 vaccine **and** documented resident's choice?

**Yes** – less restrictive visitation rules  
§553.2003(f)

**No** – More restrictive visitation rules  
§553.2003(g)



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# Less Restrictive Visitation

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- No attestation form for visitation is required.
- A resident may choose to have close or personal contact with their visitor during the visit.
- There may be up to two permanently designated essential caregivers per resident and up to two designated essential caregivers may visit the resident at the same time.



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# More Restrictive Visitation

- There may be up to two permanently designated essential caregivers per resident and **one** designated EC may visit at a time.
- Submit LTCR Form 2196 to the Regional Director. If approved, the facility must allow for outdoor visits, open window visits, vehicle parades and indoor plexiglass visits involving residents and personal visitors. If previously submitted and **no changes, do not resubmit.**
- A facility must receive an approved visitation designation before it can begin permitting outdoor visits, indoor plexiglass visits, open window visits and vehicle parades.



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# Applicable to All Visitation

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- A facility **must not** require a visitor to provide documentation of COVID-19 negative test or COVID-19 vaccination status as a condition of visitation or to enter a facility.



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# Applicable to All Visitation

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<Continued>

Masks:

- Visitors and essential caregivers must wear masks at all times. Per CDC, children 2 years of age or younger do not have to wear a mask.
- Residents must wear masks at all times (if tolerated). If the resident does not tolerate wearing a mask, the facility documents in the resident record.



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# Applicable to All Visitation

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<Continued>

- Scheduling: Schedule visitation appointments to allow time for cleaning and sanitization of the visitation area between visits.
- Screening: Screen all visitors according to requirements.



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# All ALF EC Visits

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- EC visits allowed for **all** residents with **any** COVID-19 status.
- Resident must wear facemask, if tolerated. Resident may remove mask to eat or drink during visit .
- EC must wear mask throughout the visit. EC **may not** eat or drink during visit.
- No EC testing or testing strategy required.
- No staff escorting to/from EC visits.



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# ALF Visitation Comparison

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HHSC LTCR published [Visitation Comparison Table \(PDF\)](#) for ALFs.

The table can be used as a tool to help providers determine the visitation requirements for those providers who have offered the COVID-19 vaccine and those who have not.

The next slides review the visitation comparison table.



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# Visitation Comparison



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	<b>Offered vaccine and documented resident's choice</b>	<b>Has not offered vaccine and documented choice</b>
<b>Essential Caregiver (EC) Visits</b>	Allowed for all residents with any COVID status.	
<b>Number of EC Visitors</b>	Up to 2 EC can visit a resident at the same time.	Only 1 EC can visit a resident at a time.
<b>End-of-Life (EOL) Visits</b>	Allowed for all residents with any COVID status.	
<b>Screening</b>	Screen all visitors except emergency personnel.	
<b>Facemask</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All visitors must wear facemask at all times while in the facility. Per CDC, children 2 years or younger do not need to wear a mask.</li> <li>Residents must wear facemasks, if tolerated. Document if not tolerated.</li> </ul>	

# Visitation Comparison



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	<b>Offered vaccine and documented resident's choice</b>	<b>Has not offered vaccine and documented choice</b>
<b>Indoor and Outdoor Visits</b>	Allowed for residents with COVID-negative status.	With HHSC approval (Attestation Form 2196), the following are allowed for COVID-negative residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• open window visits,</li> <li>• vehicle parades,</li> <li>• outdoor visits, and</li> <li>• plexiglass indoor visits</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Contact between residents and visitors</b>	Allowed for EC, EOL, and visits with COVID-negative residents.	Allowed only for EC and EOL visits.
<b>Salon Services</b>	Only for residents with COVID-negative status.	

# Vaccine Refusal

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**If the COVID vaccines were “offered” but not accepted by residents, does our facility meet the criteria of having “offered” the vaccine?**

Yes, as long as the facility has documented each resident’s choice to vaccinate or not to vaccinate.



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# Difference Between Essential Caregiver and Visitor

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**What is the major difference between an Essential Caregiver and a visitor?**

- EC = resident can be COVID-positive, COVID-negative, COVID-unknown
- Visitor = resident **must** be COVID-negative



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# Number of Visitors

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The number of visitors that can visit a resident at a time is not defined in rule.

- Limited by scheduling and size of visitation area
- No physical distancing necessary among visitors in the same group
- ECs can visit with another group of personal visitors (for COVID-negative residents)



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# Entertainers

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Entertainers may come to the facility provided they:

- Pass screening prior to entry.
- Wear a facemask at all times in the facility.
- Maintain physical distance of 6-10 ft from audience.

Remember:

- COVID cohorts cannot mingle together.
- Performance area must be sanitized after use and if used for different cohorts, sanitize between each performance.



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# Transportation to Outings

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Facility sponsored outings are allowed, but residents must maintain physical distancing, which may limit how many are in the vehicle at one time.

Residents and staff must wear masks. Hand hygiene must take place as well.



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# Dining and Activities

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Dining and activities are acceptable within resident cohorts, but the residents must maintain physical distancing, regardless of vaccination status.



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# Facility Tours

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An ALF may allow in-person tours for a potential resident. The following would apply to in-person tours:

- limit in-person tours to COVID negative areas of the building
- ensure all tour visitors wear masks
- ensure all tour visitors maintain physical distancing between themselves and all staff, residents, and other visitors



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# Facility Tours

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<Continued>

An ALF may allow in-person tours for a potential resident. The following would apply to in-person tours:

- limit in-person tour groups to not more than three persons
- schedule all in-person tours in advance



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# Salon Services

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Salon service visits are permitted for residents with COVID-negative status:

- Visit may occur outdoors, in resident's bedroom, or another area that limits visitor movement
- Salon service visitor must wear facemask.
- Resident must wear facemask, if tolerated.
- Testing strategy for salon services visitors.



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# Revised PL 2020-49

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HHSC revises guidance allowing LTC providers to use free COVID-19 POC antigen tests on anyone.

[Provider Letter 2020-49 \(Revised\)  
Process to Request Free COVID-19  
Point of Care Antigen Test Kits](#)

The revised letter expands the ability of LTC providers to use the requested free BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care antigen test kits on anyone.



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# Free BinaxNOW COVID-19 POC Tests Available for LTC Providers

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HHSC, along with the TDEM, is expanding the criteria for requesting free BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care test kits.

You may now use these free BinaxNOW COVID-19 POC test kits to test **anyone** including residents, staff and visitors.

Previously, the tests were allowed only for use on essential caregivers.



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# Free BinaxNOW COVID-19 POC Tests Available for LTC Providers

Providers must attest to adhere to certain training and reporting requirements and have one of the following.

- Current Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment Certificate of Waiver
- Current CLIA laboratory certificate

[Complete and submit an attestation form for free BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen COVID-19 test kits \(PDF\)](#) to request free BinaxNOW COVID-19 point of care test kits. [See revised PL 2020-49 \(PDF\)](#) for more information. Tests are available while supplies last.



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# COVID-19 Vaccination Options

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HHSC and DSHS have published [Long-term Care COVID-19 Vaccination Options \(PDF\)](#).

The resource document provides COVID-19 vaccination options to ALFs.

- Enroll as a Texas Vaccine Provider
- Partner with Vaccine Provider
- Contact local/regional health department or pharmacies
- Reach out to [Vaccine.LTCF@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:Vaccine.LTCF@dshs.texas.gov)

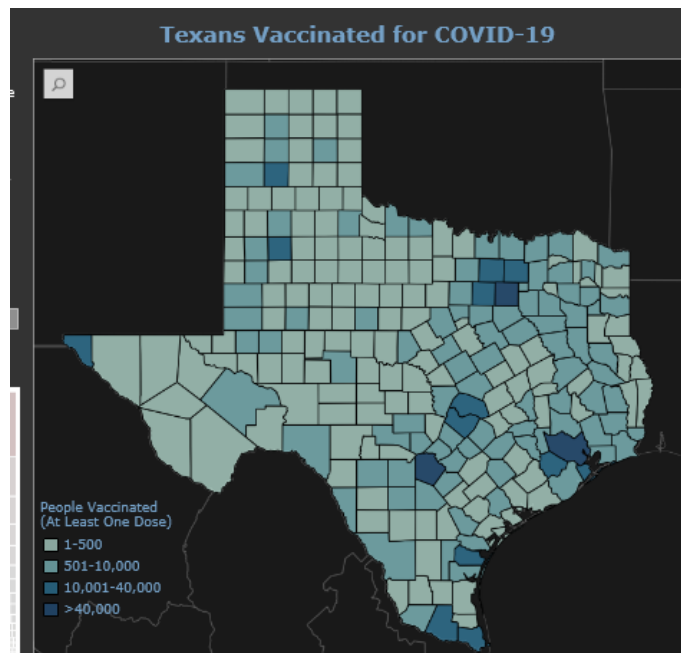


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# COVID-19 Vaccination in Texas

DSHS vaccination dashboard:

[https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/Summary?:origin=card\\_share\\_link&:embed=y&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y](https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/Summary?:origin=card_share_link&:embed=y&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y)



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# DSHS Vaccine Resources

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## Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Allocations](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Hub Providers](#)

## Updated Information for COVID-19 Vaccination Providers:

- [Information for COVID-19 Vaccination Providers](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Webinars](#)



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# Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler

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Visit the DSHS [Texas Public Health Vaccine Scheduler](#) to sign up for the COVID vaccine.

Call (833) 832-7067 if you don't have internet or need help signing up.

Spanish language and other translators are available to help callers.



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# Vaccine Eligibility

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As of Monday, March 29, 2021, **everyone age 16 and older** is now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas.



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# Where to Get Vaccinated

If you're eligible to get vaccinated now, you can check with a large vaccination hub and/or a local vaccine provider, like a nearby pharmacy or your doctor.

## Find Vaccine:

1. [LARGE VACCINATION HUBS](#)
2. [VACCINE AVAILABILITY MAP](#)
3. [LIST OF ALL PROVIDERS](#)

When searching for a vaccination site, remember:

- Vaccine supply is limited. Not all local providers have vaccine each week and hubs may have long waiting lists.
- Do not show up at a hub or provider looking for a vaccine.
- Instead, check the provider's website. Call only if the website doesn't answer your questions.



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# Authorized and Recommended Vaccines

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The CDC provides information on who is and is not recommended to receive each vaccine and what to expect after vaccination, as well as ingredients, safety, and effectiveness.

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

Currently, three vaccines are authorized and recommended to prevent COVID-19:

- [Pfizer](#)
- [Moderna](#)
- [Janssen](#) - paused



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# Vaccine Allergic Reaction

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The CDC provides recommendations on what to do if you experience an allergic reaction after getting a COVID-19 vaccination. It also provides recommendations for people who have had allergic reactions to other vaccines and for those with other types of allergies.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/allergic-reaction.html>



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# Management of Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 Vaccination

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CDC - [Interim Considerations: Preparing for the Potential Management of Anaphylaxis after COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

These interim considerations provide recommendations on assessment and management of anaphylaxis following COVID-19 vaccination.



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# Reporting Vaccine Reactions

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The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is co-managed by the CDC and the FDA. VAERS accepts and analyzes reports of adverse events (possible side effects) following vaccination.

Use VAERS to report adverse reactions to the COVID vaccine, which are very rare.

[VAERS](#)



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# Vaccine Resources

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Questions related to the Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program: [eocevent494@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent494@cdc.gov)

CDC webpage for the Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program with FAQs for providers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/long-term-care/pharmacy-partnerships.html>

Questions regarding COVID-19 vaccine registration can be sent to COVID-19 Registration Support:

- Email: [COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov)
- Toll-Free: (877) 835-7750



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# CDC Travel Guidance

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Fully vaccinated people can travel safely within the United States:

- Do not need to get tested before or after travel unless their destination requires it
- Do not need to self-quarantine

Follow [CDC's recommendations for traveling](#) safely including:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay 6 feet from others and avoid crowds
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer



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# CDC Vaccination Toolkit

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## [Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination at Your Facility](#)

This toolkit outlines the importance of COVID-19 vaccination in LTCFs, provides strategies for encouraging COVID-19 vaccination, and includes tools a facility may use to monitor COVID-19 vaccination side effects among staff and residents.



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# CDC Info on COVID-19 Variant Cases

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Emerging variants CDC is closely monitoring have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently in ways significant to public health:

- causes more severe disease,
- spreads more easily between humans,
- requires different treatments,
- changes the effectiveness of current vaccines.

It's important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant-cases.html>



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# COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

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## LTCR Publishes COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs

HHSC Long-term Care Regulation has published [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#).

The resource document answers commonly asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.



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# Texas COVID-19 Case Count and Vaccination Data

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<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/texas-covid-19-case-count-vaccination-data>

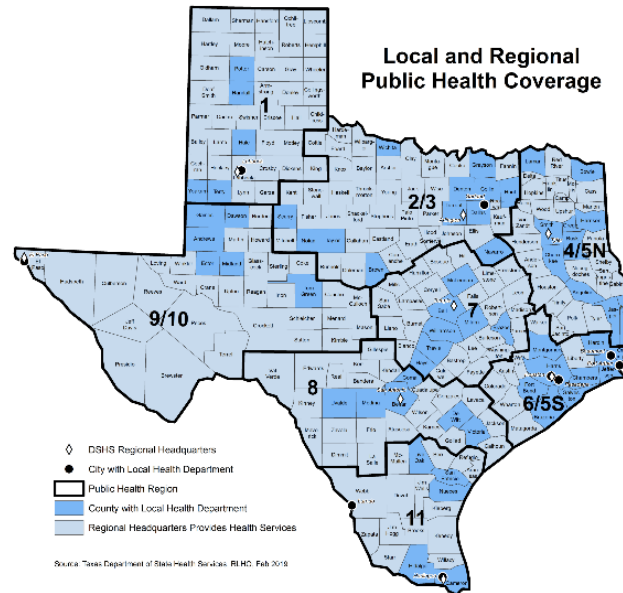
- Vaccination Reports
- Case Data
- State-Reported Case Counts
- Provider-Reported Case Counts
- LTC Facility Visitation Requests
- Impact on Vulnerable Populations



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# Public Health Regions

Map and contact info for all of the state's Public Health Regions.



<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/regions/default.shtm>



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# Provider Letters

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- [PL 20-37 Reporting Guidance for Long-Term Care Providers \(Revised\)](#)
- PL 20-42 COVID-19 Response – Expansion of Reopening Visitation (replaced by [PL 2021-12](#) on 3/26)
- [PL 20-46 Reporting Guidance for Long-Term Care Providers – Point-of-Care Antigen Testing \(Revised\)](#)
- [PL 20-48 Transferring COVID-19 Positive Residents](#)
- [PL 20-49 Process to Request Free COVID-19 Point of Care Antigen Test Kits – Rev. 3/25](#)



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# Provider Letters

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- [PL 20-50 Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine Guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [PL 20-53 Guidance for Activities, Dining, and Volunteers](#)
- [PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting](#)
- [PL 21-04 HHSC COVID-19 Reporting Process](#)
- [PL 21-06 LTCR Waivers During Severe Winter Weather](#)
- [PL 21-12 COVID-19 Response – Expansion of Reopening Visitation](#)



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# Webinar Recordings and PDFs

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Access recordings and PDFs of previous ALF webinars from the [ALF Portal](#).

Click on COVID-19 Resources to expand the accordion to access resources and webinars.

- [April 14, 2021 – ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [April 14, 2021 – ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Recording](#)



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# GovDelivery

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## To sign-up for Alerts:

- 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.
- Select your topics.
- When done click "Submit."



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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/](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](mailto:ltc.ombudsman@hhs.texas.gov)

**Facebook Live Events**

Weekly Facebook Live Q&A for Families of LTC Residents:

Every Wednesday, 12:15 to 12:45

<https://www.facebook.com/texasltcombudsman?fref=ts>



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# LTC Ombudsman



## Ombudsman Concerns:

- **Vaccination Status of Residents** - Residents must be treated with respect and dignity, not separated or treated differently by vaccination status.
- **Vaccination Status of Visitors** - A visitor is not required to inform you of their vaccination status. Whether a visitor is vaccinated or not does not affect their visitation.



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# FAQ

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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)

## **LTCR Policy Mailbox**

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

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