



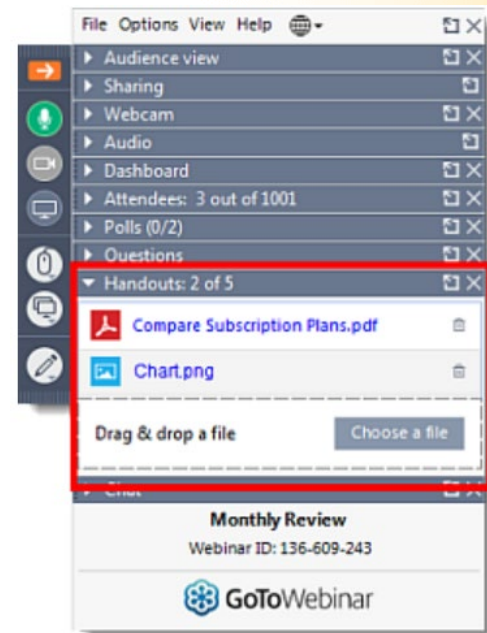
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**Welcome to the
ALF Provider
COVID-19 Webinar
with LTCR**

January 13, 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 Vaccination Data Reporting Emergency Rules

Effective Jan. 11, HHSC has adopted new COVID-19 vaccination data reporting emergency rules.

The rules require ALFs to accurately report COVID-19 vaccination data for staff and residents to HHSC in the format established by HHSC within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations.

The data will allow HHSC to accurately track vaccinations of staff and residents in long-term care facilities in Texas.



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COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting Emergency Rules

HHSC has published a revised version of Provider Letter 21-01, [COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting](#).

The letter was revised to include the link to the vaccination data survey and to clarify that facilities are to report vaccinations administered by their facility or a pharmacy partner.

[Read the assisted living facility emergency rules \(PDF\)](#).



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PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting

NOTE: Vaccination reporting is required for all ALF **staff** (employees, contractors, and volunteers) and **residents** vaccinated, regardless of whether the vaccine is administered by the ALF or a pharmacy.



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PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting for Staff

ALFs must report the following data to HHSC within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations:

- Total number of staff (employees, contractors, and volunteers) who received their first dose of a two-dose vaccine or their only dose of a single-dose vaccine when available;
- Total number of staff (employees, contractors, and volunteers) who received their second dose of a two-dose vaccine;



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PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting for Residents

ALFs must report the following data to HHSC within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations:

- Total number of residents who received their first dose of a two-dose vaccine or their only dose of a single-dose vaccine when available;
- Total number of residents who received their second dose of a two-dose vaccine;



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PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting

HHSC has developed a Survey Monkey tool to collect this information.

You can access the survey from the ALF provider portal under COVID-19 resources accordion or at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRDM2GY>

Submit a separate survey for each provider type and building.

For example, a single building that includes a NF and an ALF would submit separate surveys for each type. A provider that owns multiple licenses would submit separate surveys for each license.



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PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting

Complete the survey only when you have information to report, i.e., when a round of vaccines is administered to staff or residents.

On days when no vaccines are administered, you do not need to complete the survey.

Note: If reporting vaccination rounds that occurred previously, complete a separate survey by date for each separate round.



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Vaccination Reporting Requirements Webinar

This webinar will review the HHSC COVID-19 vaccination reporting requirements in PL 2021-01 for Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities.

Jan 13, 2021
1 -2 p.m.

[Register for the COVID-19 webinar.](#)

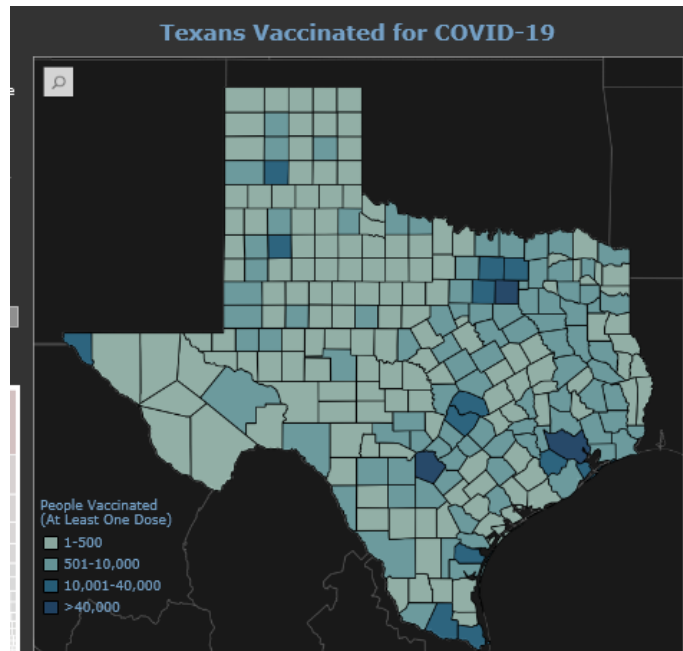


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COVID-19 Vaccination in Texas

DSHS vaccination dashboard:

https://tabexternal.dshs.texas.gov/t/THD/views/COVID-19VaccineinTexasDashboard/Summary?:origin=card_share_link&:embed=y&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y



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DSHS FAQ: COVID-19 Vaccine

Q: Where can I find the latest FAQs from DSHS?

A: [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)

It is updated as information becomes available and has information about how to sign up as a vaccinator, as well as other vaccine related information.



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How to get the COVID-19 Vaccine

If you missed signing up with the LTC Pharmacy partnership to get your vaccine you have two options:

- Contact DSHS and become a vaccine provider
- Work with a local pharmacy who can come to your facility to provide the vaccination



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COVID Vaccine Provider

If you want to be a facility that can provide vaccinations:

The first step to becoming a COVID-19 vaccine provider is registering through EnrollTexasIZ.dshs.texas.gov. Only providers registered through this site can receive and administer COVID-19 vaccine in Texas.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Hotline

DSHS Covid-19 Vaccine Provider
Hotline

877-835-7750

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Or email:

COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov



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Note: Hotline is for Vaccine Providers

Vaccine Precautions

Q: Does getting the vaccine change the precautions such as cohorting, staffing, wearing face coverings?

A: No difference in the guidance on quarantine, PPE requirements, or other COVID-19 prevention measures.



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Vaccine Uniform Consent

Q: Is there a uniform consent for the vaccine?

A: No, however the pharmacy may have their own consent forms.



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Reminder

Is vaccination required for staff?

The COVID-19 vaccine cannot be mandated through state or federal rules since the vaccine is approved through the FDA's [emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#).

Facilities have the ability to make COVID-19 vaccination a condition of employment; however, any facility that wishes to impose a requirement for staff to be vaccinated for COVID-19 **should consult their legal counsel and human resource professionals.**



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Vaccine Timeline

Moderna Versus Pfizer

Moderna

- 2 shots - one month (28 days) apart

[Information about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#)

Pfizer

- 2 shots - 21 days apart

[Information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | CDC](#)



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Vaccine 2nd Dose

You can give the 2nd dose up to 4 days before the recommended 2nd dose date. If the vaccine is given late, it should be given as close to the recommended 2nd dose date as possible.

No matter how late it is, the series does not need to be restarted.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>



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Next Vaccination Phase

There is recent guidance about the rollout of the next phase of vaccine administration:

[People 65 and Older or With Certain Medical Conditions in Next Phase for COVID-19 vaccine](#)



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Reporting Vaccine Reactions

There is a link to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) for reporting adverse reactions, which are very rare:

[VAERS](#)



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Vaccine Side Effects

Preliminary data from COVID-19 vaccine trials suggest that most post-vaccination symptoms are mild to moderate in severity.

- Most symptoms occur within the first 3 days of vaccination (the day of vaccination and following 2 days) and most of the symptoms occur the day after vaccination.

Symptoms timing:

- typically resolve within 1-2 days of onset
- more frequent and severe following the second dose
- more frequent and severe in younger people compared to those that are older (>55 years)



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Vaccine Side Effects

Q: Is it safe to give the vaccine to COVID positive residents/staff if they are asymptomatic (or symptomatic for that matter) and what about those in “unknown” status?

A: Vaccination should be deferred until recovery from acute illness (if person had symptoms) and criteria have been met to discontinue isolation. There is no minimum interval between infection and vaccine. However, current evidence suggests reinfection uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection, and thus persons with documented acute infection in the preceding 90 days may defer vaccination until the end of this period, if desired



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What to expect after getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Common Side Effects

- On the arm where you got the shot:
 - Pain
 - Swelling
- Throughout the rest of your body:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Tiredness
 - Headache
- Symptoms **NOT** consistent Post-Vaccine
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell



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What to expect after getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

Helpful Tips

- To reduce pain and discomfort:
 - Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area.
 - Use or exercise your arm.
- To reduce discomfort from fever:
 - Drink plenty of fluids.
 - Dress lightly.

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



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CDC Post-Vaccine Considerations for HCP

Do not prevent staff with only post-vaccine symptoms from coming to work.

Strategies to minimize impact on staffing due to post-vaccine symptoms:

- Vaccinate staff before their days off.
- Stagger staff vaccinations.
- Educate staff about short-term signs and symptoms post-vaccination.
- Develop a strategy to assess staff with post-vaccination signs and symptoms.
- Offer paid sick leave for staff with post-vaccine symptoms

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/post-vaccine-considerations-healthcare-personnel.html>



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Vaccine Resources

Questions related to the Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program: 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
- Toll-Free: (877) 835-7750



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CDC Vaccination Toolkit

[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 Quarantine Guidance

The CDC still endorses the 14-day quarantine period, but has also provided alternate options:

- 10-day quarantine, without testing
- 7-day quarantine, with a negative COVID-19 test result on or after day 5

See CDC's [When to Quarantine](#) for more information.



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Alternate Quarantine

The CDC's alternative quarantine has some strict guidelines:

- Alternative #1 - Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing if the person has experienced no symptoms as determined by daily monitoring.
- Alternative #2 - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if the person tests negative on a viral test (i.e., molecular or antigen test) and has experienced no symptoms as determined by daily monitoring. The test must occur on Day 5 or later. Quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

Both alternatives require that daily monitoring for fever and symptoms continue through day 14 after exposure.



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Staff Quarantine

- Exclusion from work and quarantine for 14 days is recommended for an employee who has had unprotected, prolonged [close contact](#) with a resident, visitor or other staff member with confirmed COVID-19.



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Staff Quarantine

Follow the CDC's [Return to Work Criteria](#) when an employee has confirmed or probable COVID-19 and requires isolation.



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Basics

- If anyone has symptoms of COVID-19, they should be treated like they have COVID-19
- Alternative quarantine options can only be used if the person has not had symptoms during the entirety of the 7 or 10 day quarantine period
- Anyone using the shortened quarantine period needs to continue to self-monitor for fever and symptoms for the entire 14 day period, even if they have been released from strict, in-home quarantine



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Quarantine Reminders

If a resident leaves and returns on the same day, they do not need to be quarantined unless they fail the screening upon return.

Quarantine the resident if:

- Upon return screening, the resident has fever or other COVID-19 symptoms,
- The resident spent one or more nights away,
- The resident had close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive or has symptoms of the virus, or
- Upon return screening, it is determined that during the visit they weren't able to follow all infection control protocol.



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Outbreaks and Essential Caregiver Visits

Essential caregiver visits are permitted in all ALFs for COVID-19 negative and unknown COVID-19 status residents.

Community or facility outbreaks do not require ending essential caregiver visits, unless local authorities impose stricter orders prohibiting visitation to a facility.



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Flu and COVID-19

With both flu and COVID-19 circulating, getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever. Learn more about what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones on the following sites:

- [FAQs: Flu and COVID-19](#)
- [Getting a Flu Vaccine during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Similarities and Differences between Flu and COVID-19](#)
- [PL 20-50 Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine Guidance during COVID-19](#)



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Flu & COVID-19

What You Need to Know - Webinar

- Jan. 21, 2021 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
[Register for the webinar.](#)
- Similarities and the differences between flu and COVID-19.
- Importance of getting a flu shot, and how flu vaccination along with good infection control practices protect everyone.



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DSHS Training Video

DSHS Video on Long-term Care Facilities COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Now Available

The Department of State Health Services has published a recorded training for long-term care providers on COVID-19 precautions to take and how to accomplish them.

[View the video training.](#)



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COVID-19 Resources

Available resources and tools for ALFs:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#) (3.6)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
 - [§553.2001](#)
 - [§553.2003](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
 - [ALF FAQ](#) (Updated 12/16/2020)
- [Provider Letters](#)
- [Texas Division of Emergency Management](#) - interactive map for finding testing resources



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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

- [PL 20-37 Reporting Guidance for Long-Term Care Providers \(Revised\)](#)
- [PL 20-42 COVID-19 Response – Expansion of Reopening Visitation](#)
- [PL 20-46 Reporting Guidance for Long-Term Care Providers – Point-of-Care Antigen Testing \(Revised\)](#)
- [PL 20-48 Transferring COVID-19 Positive Residents](#)



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Provider Letters

- [PL 20-49 Process to Request Free COVID-19 Point of Care Antigen Test Kits \(Revised\)](#)
- [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](#)



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Webinar Recording Update w/ link

Access a recording of the previous ALF webinar:

ALF Provider COVID-19 Webinar with
LTCR - WED, JAN 6, 2021, 11:00 AM

[View the webinar recording here.](#)



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GovDelivery

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/

Statewide Intake for an LTC Ombudsman:

Phone: (800) 252-2412 or

Email: 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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FAQ

**Policy, Rules and
Training**

How to Contact

Jennifer Morrison, Manager

Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov

Policy Rules and Training Mailbox

Policyrulestraining@hhsc.state.tx.us

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!
