



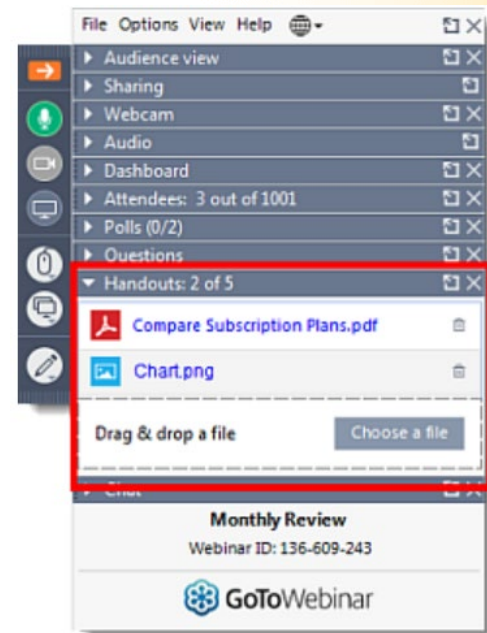
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**Welcome to the  
ALF Provider  
COVID-19 Webinar  
with LTCR**

**January 27, 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.



# Texas Council on Long-Term Care Facilities Report

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The Long-Term Care Facilities Council studies and makes recommendations for NFs, ALFs, and ICF-IIDs regarding best practices and protocols to make survey, inspection, and informal dispute resolution processes more efficient and less burdensome on long-term care facilities.

View the LTCF Council report:

<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/laws-regulations/reports-presentations/2021/sb-1519-ltc-facilities-council-report-jan-2021.pdf>

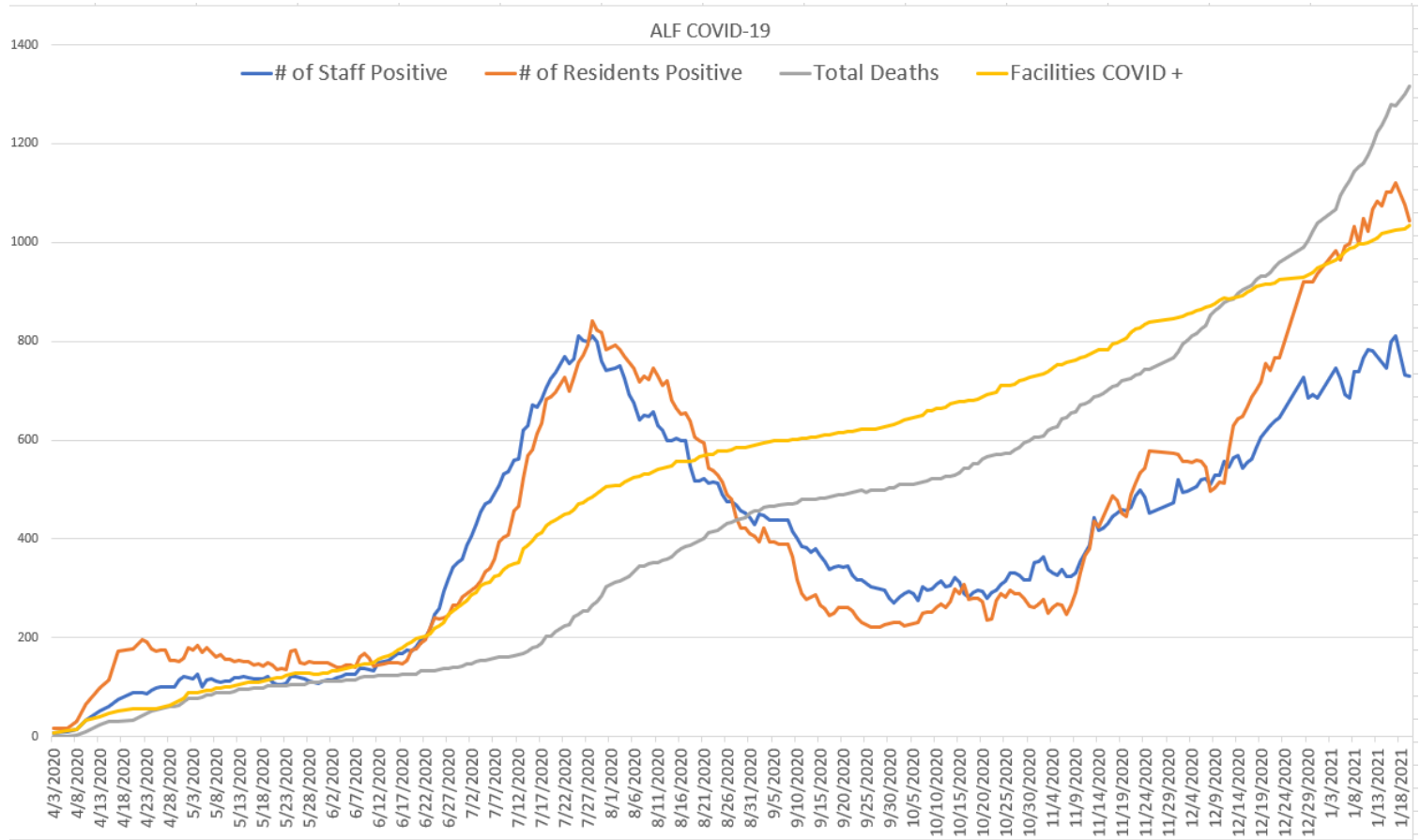


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# COVID-19 ALF Chart



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# Ongoing Issues

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Ongoing issues in ALFs:

- Screening
- Use of PPE
- Changing PPE when going from hot zone to cold zone
- Hand-washing
- Mask usage



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# Response Plan

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New ALF COVID-19 Response Plan  
version 3.7 coming soon!

Notification through GovDelivery.



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# Vaccine Reporting Overview

Reporting to...	...is...
HHSC via emergency rules (Survey Monkey)	Required for all NFs and ALFs under all circumstances
NHSN	Voluntary for any LTCF
Immtrac	Only required for facilities that are vaccine providers. Facilities with individuals vaccinated through a pharmacy or other outside agency do not report to Immtrac
Local Health Department	Dependent on a facility's local health department requirements



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# COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting Emergency Rules

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- Effective January 11.
- Requires ALFs to accurately report COVID-19 vaccination data for staff and residents to HHSC within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations.
- Allows 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

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[Provider Letter 2021-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting](#)

PL includes the link to the vaccination data survey and clarifies 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

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## IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Only report vaccinations occurring onsite at the facility; do not include vaccinations that occurred at an off-site pharmacy, doctor's office, local mass vaccination clinic, etc.
- Report vaccinations administered by the facility or a pharmacy partner.
- Do not provide cumulative numbers - do not include totals from previous reports in a new report.



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# PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting for Staff

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

- Total number of staff who received their first dose of a two-dose vaccine.
- Total number of staff who received their second dose of a two-dose vaccine.



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# PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting for Residents

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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.
- 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

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Report vaccination data via Survey Monkey tool.

Access the Survey Monkey tool via:

- Direct link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRD M2GY>
- [ALF Provider Portal](#) in COVID-19 Resources
- [PL 2021-01](#)



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# PL 21-01 COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting

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Complete the survey only when you have information to report.

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



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# Survey Monkey Corrections

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To correct data previously submitted via Survey Monkey:

- Click out of survey completely
- Go back into survey via original link
- Clear browser cache



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# Vaccination Reporting Requirements Webinar

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A recording of the Jan. 13, 2021 NF/ALF Vaccination Reporting Requirements is available for those unable to attend.

[Listen to the webinar recording here.](#)

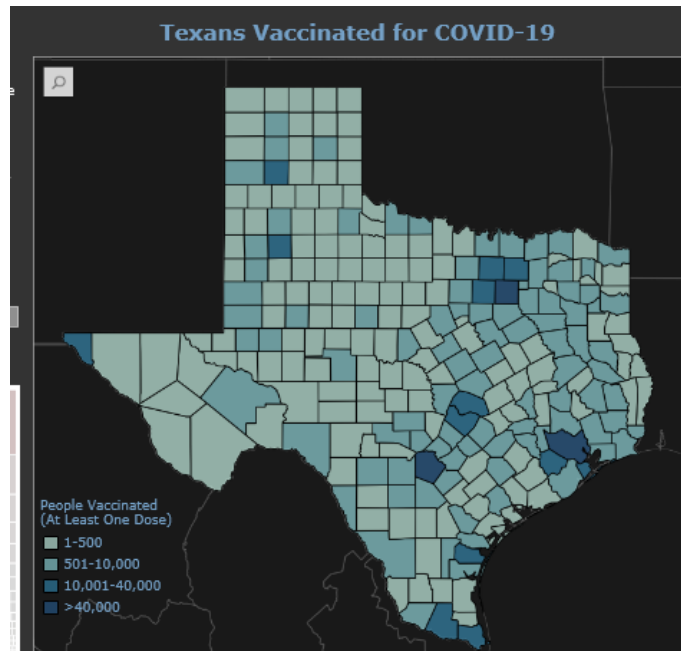


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# COVID-19 Vaccination in Texas

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 FAQ: COVID-19 Vaccine

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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

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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-19 Vaccine Provider

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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](https://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

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DSHS Covid-19 Vaccine Provider  
Hotline

877-835-7750

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Or email:

[COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov)



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Note: Hotline is for Vaccine Providers

# Vaccine Precautions

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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 Myth

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**Myth:** Once I get the vaccine, then I can no longer get the virus nor spread the virus.

**Reality:** Even if you get the vaccine you can still:

- get the virus
- spread the virus

Similar to the flu vaccine, the point of the COVID vaccine is to limit the effects. The goal is to not get *as* sick. You can still transmit the virus even after you get the vaccine.



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# Vaccine Timeline

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## *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 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose

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You can give the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose up to 4 days before the recommended 2<sup>nd</sup> dose date. If the vaccine is given late, it should be given as close to the recommended 2<sup>nd</sup> 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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# Vaccination Phase 1B

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Vaccination Phase 1B - People 65 and Older or With Certain Medical Conditions

DSHS News Release:

- [Vaccination Phase 1B](#)
- [Texas Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Priorities](#)



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# Reporting Vaccine Reactions

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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

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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

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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

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## 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

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## 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

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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

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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 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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# Essential Caregiver Vaccination

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Essential Caregivers can be given the vaccine by the facility if all residents and staff wanting the vaccine have been vaccinated.

EC must meet criteria to receive vaccine.

EC vaccination not required to report.



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# CDC Quarantine Guidance

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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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# Basics

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- 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

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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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# Staff Return to Work

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



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# Outbreaks and Essential Caregiver Visits

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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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# Post-Outbreak Root Cause Analysis

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After an ALF experiences an outbreak, the ALF should do a root cause analysis to determine:

- What happened?
- What was the breakdown?
- How can we address the breakdown?

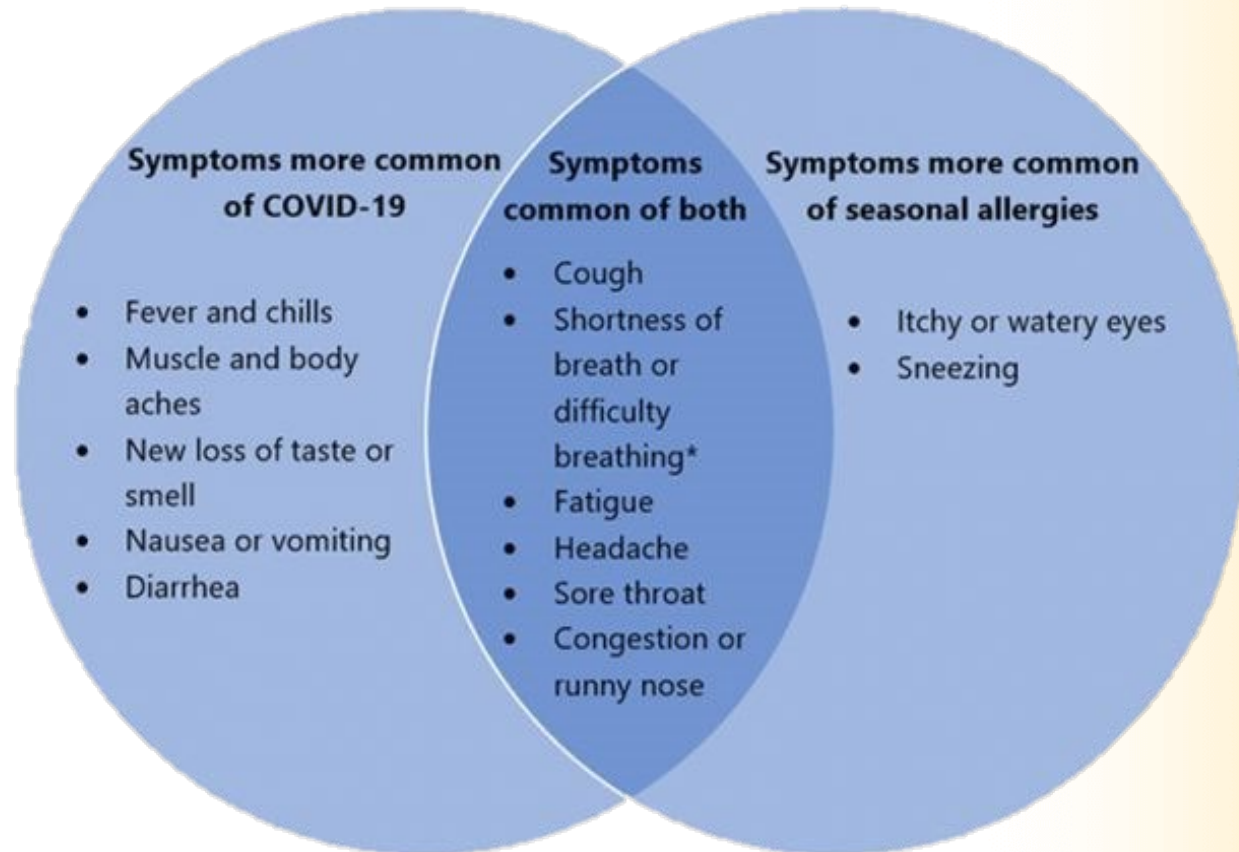


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# Allergies vs COVID-19

## Similarities and the differences between allergies and COVID-19.



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# Flu and COVID-19

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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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# Webinar – Managing the COVID-19 Crisis

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## ALF Provider Webinar

### Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Smith and Gregg Counties

Jan. 28, 2021

10 - 11:30 a.m.

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



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# DSHS Training Video

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## **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

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Available resources and tools for ALFs:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#) (3.6)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
  - [§553.2001](#)
  - [§553.2003](#)
  - [§553.2004](#)
- 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

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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](#)
- [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

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- [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 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.

- [January 20, 2021 – ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [January 20, 2021 – ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Recording\(link is external\)](#)



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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



## IRS Stimulus Payments

The IRS issued answers to frequent questions about stimulus payments, which most residents received.

Links to IRS resources:

- <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/treasury-and-irs-begin-delivering-second-round-of-economic-impact-payments-to-millions-of-americans>
- <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/second-eip-faqs>



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# Discussion

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Questions from previous webinars.



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# FAQ

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**Policy, Rules and  
Training**

# 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**

[Policyrulestraining@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto: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!**

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