



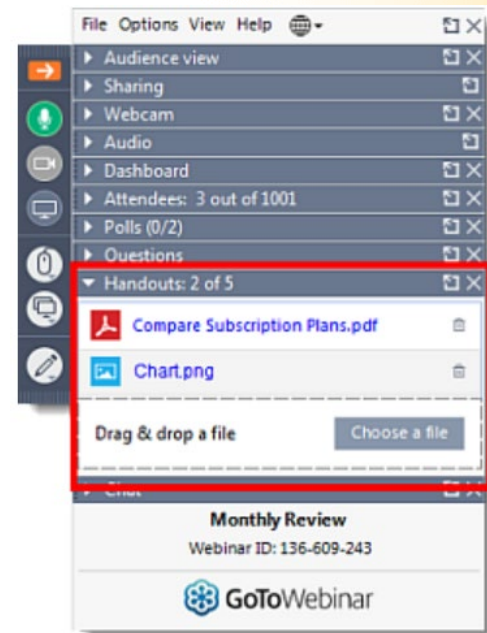
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**Welcome to the
ALF Provider
COVID-19 Webinar
with LTCR**

January 6, 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.



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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ALF COVID-19 Vaccination Data Needed by Jan. 7

HHSC LTCR and the Texas DSHS request that assisted living facilities [complete the COVID-19 Vaccination Survey](#). ALFs must do this by Thursday, Jan. 7 at noon.

The survey informs LTCR and DSHS on the number of COVID-19 vaccines:

- Reaching ALF residents and staff
- Enrollment status in the state or federal COVID-19 vaccine partnership program

In addition to the vaccination survey, facilities may also be contacted by a TDEM call center representative to get information related to vaccination data.



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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](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

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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Vaccine Refusal

Q: If a LAR/resident or employee refuses to complete and execute our facility specific release and consent form or CVS' consent forms can the facility withhold administration of the vaccine?

A: Yes, if a resident or employee does not want the COVID-19 vaccine and refuses to sign a consent form, the facility does not have to vaccinate them. At this time, neither the federal government nor the state of Texas have mandated the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals because the vaccine is approved through the FDA's emergency use authorization (EUA). Any resident or employee has the right to refuse the COVID-19 vaccine.

State rules do not prohibit a facility from making COVID-19 vaccination a condition of employment; that is a decision the facility should make in consultation with its legal counsel and human resources professionals.

For additional information, please visit the CDC's [FAQ about COVID-19 Vaccination in LTCFs](#) and [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#) from DSHS.



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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 Administration

Q: What happens if someone misses the 28-day timeline for the second dose of the vaccine?

Answer:

- Administration of 2nd dose within 4-day grace period (e.g., day 17-21) considered valid

Continued,



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Vaccine Administration

Answer continued:

- If >21 days since 1st dose, 2nd dose should be administered at earliest opportunity (but no doses need to be repeated)
- Both doses are necessary for protection; efficacy of a single dose has not been systematically evaluated



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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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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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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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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. 12, 2021 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.
[Register for the webinar.](#)

Jan. 21, 2021 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
[Register for the webinar.](#)



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Flu & COVID-19

What You Need to Know - 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.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on administering flu vaccines this season amid the coronavirus pandemic.



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Webinar-Managing the COVID-19 Crisis

Denton and Collin Counties

Jan. 7, 2021 10 - 11:30 a.m.

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

Galveston and Brazoria Counties

Jan. 11, 2021 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

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

The webinars will review:

- Area specific data.
- Community and area resources.
- Specifics of the ALF COVID-19 Response Plan.
- The importance of identifying the root cause of COVID-19 spread in a facility.
- Useful tips for your response to the pandemic.



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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](#)



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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, DEC 30, 2020, 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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Joint Training

PPE



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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!
