



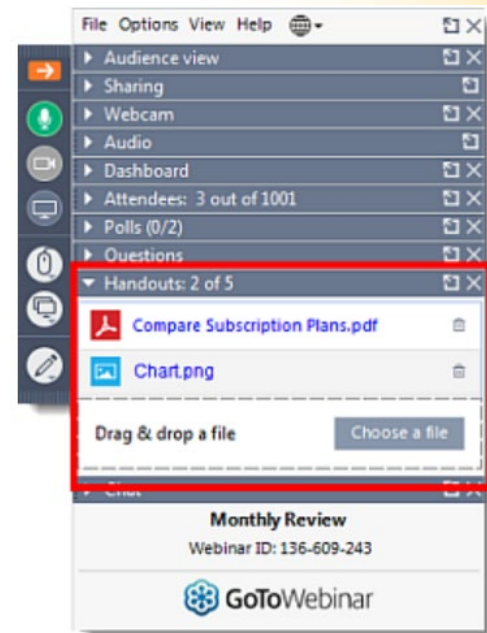
TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

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

July 14, 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.



ALF Portal

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

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
Health and Human
Services

ALF Response Plan

Currently working on updating ALF Response Plan.

Look for version 3.8.2 coming soon.

Sign up for GovDelivery to receive notification as soon as the new plan comes out.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

DSHS COVID-19 Dashboard

<https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83>

- Confirmed Cases
- Probable Cases
- Fatalities
- Active Cases
- Recovered

The dashboard is updated by 4PM daily.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Upcoming Webinars

Starting in July, ALF webinars will be once a month.

Upcoming webinar schedule:

- August 11
- September 8



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Webinar Recordings and PDFs

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.

A recording of the June 23, 2021 ALF Provider COVID-19 Webinar with LTCR is available for those unable to attend.

- [Listen to the webinar recording here](#).
- [Read the webinar slide presentation \(PDF\)](#).



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

COVID-19 Delta Variant

Panelist:

David Gruber

Associate Commissioner for Regional
and Local Health Operations

Texas DSHS



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

COVID-19 Delta Variant

Info about the Delta variant:

- Appears more transmissible than other variants
- Increased risk for hospitalization when infected
- Available vaccines are effective at preventing COVID-19 and hospitalization, especially when fully vaccinated
- Masks and distancing still work to prevent the spread of variants for people who are not fully vaccinated



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

COVID-19 Delta Variant

Delta variant summary:

- the same prevention steps work—masks, distancing, and vaccines;
- the same monoclonal antibody treatments work; and
- our diagnostic tests continue to work.

No major changes in practice required



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

DRTx Vaccine Hotline

Disability Rights Texas is now assisting Texans with disabilities who are having trouble getting their COVID-19 vaccine:

- Are you having trouble signing up for the vaccine on your computer – or you don't use computers?
- Do you need a ride to the place giving the shots?
- Is it hard to leave your home and you need the vaccine brought to you?
- Do you want to learn more about the vaccine before you get it?

For help, call the DRTx Vaccine Hotline for People with Disabilities at 1-800-880-8401 or email at vaccine@DRTx.org.

Hotline hours M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This hotline is for vaccine access issues only. For other disability rights issues, the main line is 1-800-252-9108.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

FDA Tells Public to Stop Using Certain Innova COVID-19 Antigen Tests

The USDA is warning the public to stop using the Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test for diagnostic use because:

- The performance of the test is not established and presents a health-risk.
- Labeling distributed with certain configurations of the test includes performance claims. These claims did not accurately reflect the performance estimates observed during the clinical studies.
- The test has not been authorized, cleared, or approved by the FDA for commercial distribution or use in the United States, as required by law.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

FDA Tells Public to Stop Using Certain Innova COVID-19 Antigen Tests

The Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test is also distributed under the names:

- Innova COVID-19 Self-Test Kit (three tests)
- Innova SARS-CoV-2-Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test (seven tests)
- Innova SARS-CoV-2-Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test (25 tests).

[Read the full FDA notice.](#)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

QLTC Conference

2021 Quality in Long Term Care Conference – Navigating the New Normal in Texas Long-Term Care

Free virtual conference Aug 30-31.

HHS and DSHS host an informative two-day, free conference on quality in long-term care. Continuing education credit for multiple disciplines will be provided.

For more information: email QLTCC@hhs.Texas.gov



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Quarantine Guidance Review

ALFs will have to determine whether the resident is fully-vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days (Recovered).

Scenario	Vaccinated or Recovered	Unvaccinated
Newly Admitted/Readmitted	No Quarantine	Quarantine
Left Overnight	No Quarantine	Quarantine
Known Exposure or close contact	Quarantine	Quarantine
Symptomatic while Awaiting Test Results	Quarantine	Quarantine



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Quarantine Guidance Review

Per CDC guidance, ALFS should not use COVID-19 testing as a basis for quarantine decisions.

Residents who meet the criteria for being quarantined must be quarantined even if the resident has a recent COVID-19 negative test result.

ALFs also should not quarantine residents who do not need to be quarantined per CDC guidance. Doing so could be considered unnecessary isolation of a resident.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Quarantine Guidance Review

For residents who require quarantine:

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 guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Vaccination Reporting

Report vaccination data via Survey Monkey tool:

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



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Executive Order GA-36

On Tuesday May 18, Governor Abbott issued [Executive Order GA-36](#), which prohibits governmental entities, such as HHSC, from mandating face coverings in response to the COVID-19 disaster.

LTC providers, are not required to comply with any requirement in HHSC rule that mandates face coverings in response to the COVID-19 disaster.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

May 21 Mask Guidance

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2021/05/new-guidance-long-term-care-facilities-hcssas-patient-hospices-masks>

Long-term care providers, including home and community support services agencies, are not required to comply with any requirement in HHSC rule that mandates face coverings in response to the COVID-19 disaster.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

May 21 Mask Guidance

Providers must continue to comply with applicable infection control rules, including those addressing compliance with CDC and CMS guidance.

Note that this order does not take the place of Executive Order GA-34, paragraph 4.

Businesses, including long-term care providers, may require employees or customers to follow additional hygiene measures, including wearing face coverings.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

May 21 Mask Guidance

HHSC continues to strongly encourage the use of face coverings to prevent the spread of COVID-19, particularly in settings involving vulnerable populations or individuals who are unvaccinated or of unknown vaccination status.

HHSC is developing new emergency rules in response to this order and will notify long-term care providers by provider letter when the new rules are adopted.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

CDC Guidance

CDC guidance for healthcare settings (including ALFs):

- [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#)



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

CDC Guidance for Communal Dining

Fully vaccinated residents can participate in communal dining without using source control or physical distancing.

If unvaccinated residents are dining in a communal area then:

- all residents should use source control when not eating ([GA-36](#))
- unvaccinated residents should remain at least 6 feet from others



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

CDC Guidance for Group Activities

If all residents participating are fully vaccinated:

- may choose to have close contact
- may choose to not wear source control

If unvaccinated residents are present:

- all participants should wear source control ([GA-36](#))
- unvaccinated residents should physically distance from others



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Facility Transportation

Use of facility transportation should follow the same CDC guidance for group activities.

Vaccinated residents may ride in facility transportation without wearing source control or physical distancing.

If unvaccinated residents are present, then physical distancing should be maintained.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Hospice Respite Placement is Prohibited in an ALF

REMINDER

Although an ALF may have a resident who is receiving hospice services, the hospice regulations and Medicare Condition of Participation prescribe specific locations for inpatient hospice respite:

- medicare-certified hospital
- skilled nursing facility
- hospice inpatient unit
- ICF-IID



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Visitor COVID Test and Vaccination Status

REMINDER

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

A personal visitor may refuse to provide information about his/her vaccination status. These visitors may be treated as unvaccinated and subject to all necessary precautions for unvaccinated individuals.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Volunteers

REMINDER

Volunteers are allowed in situations where they are performing essential tasks.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Screening

REMINDER

For ALFs, current rule [§553.2001\(e\)\(2\)](#) states that residents are required to be screened at least twice a day.

ALFs must screen all residents, staff, and people who come into the facility (i.e., visitors) in accordance with [§553.2001\(d\)](#).



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Cleaning between Visits

REMINDER

Visitation must allow time for cleaning and sanitization of the visitation area between visits to ensure infection prevention and control measures are followed.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Providers of Essential Services

REMINDER - An ALF **must** allow persons providing critical assistance to enter the facility if they pass screening.

Persons providing critical assistance include providers of essential services such as:

- Contract doctors or nurses,
- home health and hospice workers,
- health care professionals,
- contract professionals, and
- clergy members and spiritual counselors.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Hospice Provider Visits

REMINDER

- ALFs **must** allow hospice providers and their staff to conduct visits.
- ALFs must not base hospice service delivery on vaccination status for hospice staff.

Refer to [§553.2003](#) and [ALF FAQ](#).



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Update Emergency Plan

REMINDER

- Review the emergency plan at least annually
- Document all reviews and updates of emergency plan

See [§553.44](#) for Emergency Preparedness and Response requirements.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Residents

Q: Regarding facemask and physical distancing requirements for unvaccinated residents, how do residents know who is vaccinated?

A: A resident can choose to disclose their vaccination status to other residents. However, a facility cannot require a resident disclose their vaccination status to other residents. A facility also cannot prohibit a resident from partaking in certain activities (i.e. communal dining or group activities) based on a resident's vaccination status.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Screening Logs

Q: How long do we have to keep the screening logs?

A: Retain until you have a regular survey.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Test Kits - Abbott ID NOW

Test Kits Available for LTC Providers with Abbott ID NOW Machines

COVID-19 test kits for the Abbott ID NOW machine are available. There is no charge for long-term care providers that request them.

[Contact the LTCR regional director for your facility's region](#) if you need COVID-19 test kits for the Abbott ID NOW machine.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Test Kits - Abbott ID NOW

Test Kits Available for LTC Providers with Abbott ID NOW Machines

This initiative is separate from the [BinaxNOW initiative described in PL 2020-49 \(PDF\)](#).

LTC providers in need of BinaxNOW test supplies should continue to follow the BinaxNOW initiative process.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

GovDelivery

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.
- At a minimum, select ALF or your preferred topics.
- When done click "Submit."

Provider Alerts

- Assisted Living Facilities (ALF) Resources
- Assisted Living and Residential Care (ALRC) Resources
- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) Resources
- Consumer Directed Services (CDS) Resources
- Consumer Managed Personal Assistance Services (CMPAS) Resources
- Electronic Visit Verification
- Local Authorities Resources
- Texas Minimum Data Set (MDS) Resources
- Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS) Resources
- Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) Program Resources
- Employment First
- Family Care (FC) Resources



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

LTC Ombudsman



Patty Ducayet

State Long-term Care Ombudsman

Telework Phone: (737) 704-9075

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

Facebook Live Events

Bi-weekly Facebook Live Q&A for Families of LTC Residents:

Every Other Wednesday, 12:15 to 12:45

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



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

LTC Ombudsmen



Have legal authority to access residents and facilities, which applies to **both** volunteer and staff ombudsmen. Volunteer ombudsmen are not facility volunteers.

LTC ombudsmen:

- Are subject to screening for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure.
- Will wear a facemask, if the facility policy requires a facemask for any person entering the facility.
- Will supply their own PPE and will **not** use a facility's PPE.
- Are **not** required to be tested by the facility or provide a test result to the facility.
- Are **not** required to provide the ombudsman's vaccination status.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

FAQ

How to Contact

Jennifer Morrison, Manager

Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov

LTCR Policy Mailbox

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>



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Thank you!
