



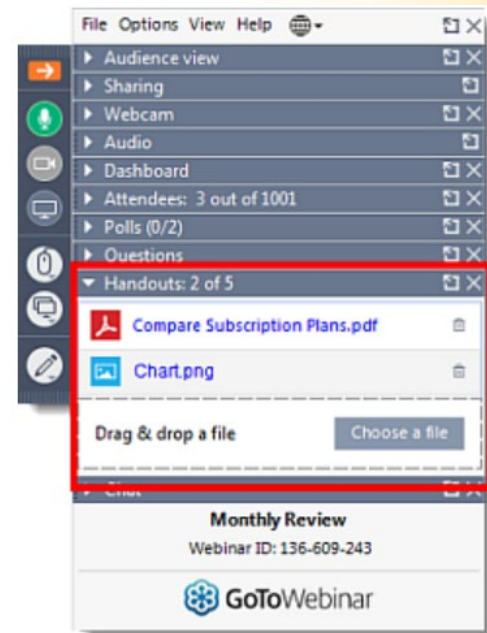
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**Welcome to the
ALF Provider
COVID-19 Webinar
with LTCR**

May 19, 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

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

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

Upcoming webinar schedule:

- June 2, 2021
- June 16, 2021
- June 30, 2021



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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.

- [May 5, 2021 – ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Slides \(PDF\)](#)
- [May 5, 2021 – ALF COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Recording](#)



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Executive Order GA-36

HHSC is aware of the Governor's executive order issued yesterday ([GA-36](#)), regarding facemask requirements.

HHSC is analyzing the potential impacts of this executive order and will update providers as soon as possible.



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CDC Guidance

CDC guidance:

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



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CDC Guidance

ALFs can implement some of the updated CDC guidance, as long as the CDC guidance **does not** conflict with our rules.

Example: Our rules state that all visitors must wear masks. Therefore, a visitor cannot be allowed to take off his/her mask even if they are fully vaccinated.



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CDC Guidance

<Continued>

If the CDC guidance does not conflict with anything we have in rule, you can go ahead and begin to implement the guidance.

We anticipate to have emergency rules that reflect the new CDC guidance soon. Please check the HHSC websites for update.



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Emergency Rule Extended

The emergency rule related to COVID-19 vaccination data reporting in ALFs has been extended.

The extension took effect on May 11 and will expire on July 9, 2021.

[Read the ALF Vaccination Data Reporting Emergency Rule \(PDF\)](#)



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Vaccination Reporting

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

<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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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.



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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.



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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.



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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](#).



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Child Visitors

Can a facility have a policy that no children under age 12 are allowed to visit residents?

No.

[§553.2003\(b\)](#) Visitors, except for essential caregivers, may be any age. Visitors under the age of two are exempt from all requirements related to wearing masks described in this section.



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Escorting Visitors

Do we need to escort visitors to the resident's room or visitation area?

A facility is required to screen visitors and schedule visits, it is not required to escort visitors. A facility may establish a policy for escorting visitors, but the same policy may not be used to prohibit or limit visitation.



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Dining

Can fully-vaccinated residents dine together without physical distancing?

Per CDC:

- Fully vaccinated residents can participate in communal dining without use of source control or physical distancing.
- If unvaccinated residents are dining in a communal area (e.g., dining room) all residents need to use source control (facemask) when not eating and unvaccinated residents need to continue to remain at least 6 feet from others.



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Activities

Can fully-vaccinated residents participate in group activities without physical distancing?

Per CDC:

- If all residents participating in the activity are fully vaccinated, then they may choose to have close contact and to not wear source control during the activity.
- If unvaccinated residents are present, then all participants in the group activity need to wear source control (facemask) and unvaccinated residents need to physically distance from others.



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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 Contact 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

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>



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Thank you!
