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

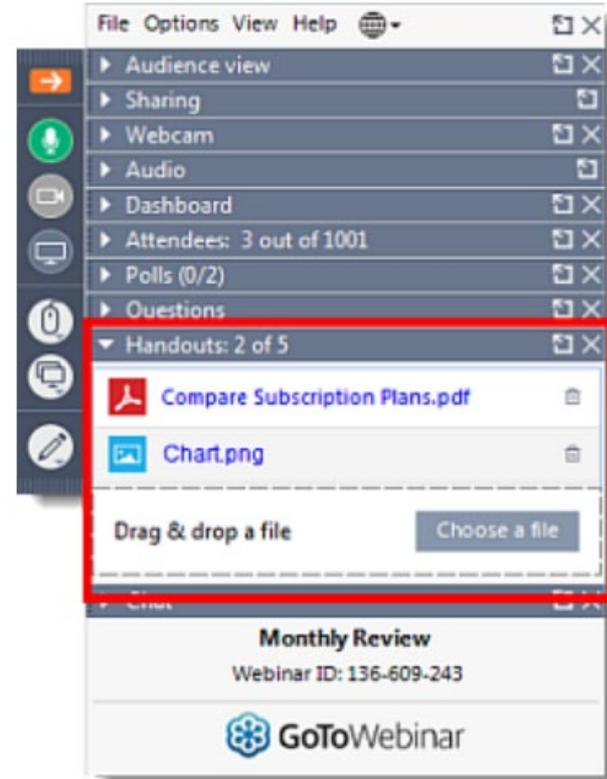
**November 10, 2021**



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# 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.





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# ALF Portal

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

Resources and tools for ALFs:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan](#) ver. 4.1 (10/27)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
  - [§553.2001](#)
  - [§553.2003](#)
  - [§553.2004](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
  - [ALF FAQ](#) (10/28)
- [Provider Letters](#)



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# Emergency Rule Extended

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§553.2004

[COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting and  
Emergency Communication System  
Enrollment \(PDF\)](#)

# Federal Vaccination

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HHSC is currently reviewing the impact of these regulations and will provide information as it becomes available.

- [Biden-Harris Administration Issues Emergency Regulation Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Care Workers](#)
- [OSHA COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing: Emergency Temporary Standard](#)

# Suspend Use of Certain Medical Gloves



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## [FDA Investigating Certain Imported Medical Gloves – Recommends Suspending Use](#)

The FDA recommends that health care facilities and providers **do not** purchase, or use imported medical gloves from companies included on this [list](#).

For FDA-cleared medical gloves, search this [database](#) using the glove product code.

Report any medical glove purchases to [the FDA by email](#) that are a different color, appear used, soiled, or otherwise seem to be fraudulent.

# Generator Survey

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## [Deadline Extended: Survey on NF, ALF Emergency Generator Capabilities](#)

ALFs have until end of day Nov. 12, 2021 to [complete the NF/ALF Generator Survey](#). HHSC LTCR has extended the deadline.

This survey is legislatively required and will take you about five minutes to complete.

Your responses help inform future initiatives related to emergency preparedness.



# Vaccines – Additional Dose

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Immunocompromised persons who have received the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine may have an additional dose of the same mRNA vaccine as their primary series.

[Additional doses](#) - intended for people who are immunocompromised:

- Receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system



# Vaccines – Additional Dose

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<Continued>

[Additional doses](#) - intended for people who are immunocompromised:

- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

# Vaccines – Booster Dose

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Booster doses - for when antibody protection has waned over time.

For CDC info on who is eligible for a booster and when to get a booster, visit [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#).

Which booster should you get?

[Any of the COVID-19 vaccines](#) authorized in the United States.



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# Fully Vaccinated

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## **Am I still considered “fully vaccinated” if I don’t get a booster shot?**

Yes. Everyone is still considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a 2-shot series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.



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# Importance of Vaccination

## Texas Data Shows Unvaccinated People 20 times More Likely to Die from COVID-19

The screenshot shows the Texas Department of State Health Services website. At the top left is the logo and name. To the right is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a link to 'Inicio en español'. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with links: HOME, COVID-19, ABOUT DSHS, NEWS, I AM A..., MOST POPULAR, RESOURCES, ONLINE SERVICES, and CONTACT US. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: Home > News and Media > News Releases > Texas Data Shows Unvaccinated People 20 times More Likely to Die From COVID-19. The article title is 'Texas Data Shows Unvaccinated People 20 times More Likely to Die From COVID-19' with a sub-headline 'News Release' and date 'Nov. 8, 2021'. A note states: 'Note: This release was updated Nov. 8 so that the second paragraph reflects data for the Sept. 4 to Oct. 1 period.' The first paragraph reads: 'A new study released by the Texas Department of State Health Services shows that during the month of September, Texans not vaccinated against COVID-19 were about 20 times more likely to suffer a COVID-19-associated death and 13 times more likely to test positive than people who were fully vaccinated.' The second paragraph reads: 'An analysis of data from the four-week period from Sept. 4 through Oct. 1 shows that vaccination had a strong protective effect across all ages. While the impact varied across age groups, it was most pronounced in younger groups. The risk of COVID-19 death was 23 times higher in unvaccinated people in their 30s and 55 times higher for people in their 40s, compared with their vaccinated peers. There were fewer than 10 COVID-19 deaths among fully vaccinated people ages 18 to 29 compared with 84 deaths among unvaccinated people in the same age group.' Below the text are social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and Email. At the bottom, there is a 'Tweets by @TexasDSHS' section with a tweet icon.



# Therapeutics

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DSHS has set up a new order system for therapeutics, which has been built on to the COVID-19 vaccine ordering platform, VAOS. DSHS is now asking providers to order monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapeutics through VAOS

For webinars on ordering mAb in VAOS for new VAOS providers, see [DSHS COVID-19 Therapeutics](#)



# Therapeutics

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HHS mAb 101 Webinar: Every other week HHS hosts a mAb 101 webinar designed for sites that are new to monoclonal antibodies, email [COVID19Therapeutics@HHS.gov](mailto:COVID19Therapeutics@HHS.gov) for more information on webinar dates and registration links.

Email [therapeutics@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:therapeutics@dshs.texas.gov) for questions regarding how to set up a VAOS account or ordering therapeutics



# Delta Variant

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## CDC Guidance: Delta Variant

The Delta variant is the most common variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, spreading in the United States.

- 99% of all cases in the US and in Texas are Delta
- Delta variant spreads more easily than prior variants.
- COVID-19 vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection and severe disease among LTC residents and staff.

Get answers to your vaccine questions at [CDC's Vaccinate with Confidence.](#)



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# STEAR

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State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) – provides local emergency planners with additional information on the needs in their community

- Register online at <https://tdem.texas.gov/stear/>
- There is a map on the STEAR website that shows which jurisdictions have enrolled.
- Registration should be renewed annually. The program sends out reminders to do so at the beginning of each year.



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# CDC Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guidance

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## Infection Control: COVID-19

For ALFs:

- No changes to the PPE recommended for the care of residents with suspected or confirmed COVID infection.
- Quarantine no longer recommended for fully vaccinated residents with exposure to COVID or those residents who have had COVID infection in the prior 90 days.



# Reminders

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## Reporting New Positive Cases

ALFs are **only** required to report to HHSC Complaint and Incident Intake (CII) within 24 hours:

- a facility's first positive case of COVID-19 in a resident/staff member, **or**
- a new positive case of COVID-19 in a resident/staff member after a facility has been without a new case 14 days or longer.

Review [PL 2021-04 HHSC COVID-19 Reporting Process](#) for full policy details, provider responsibilities, and a decision tree on when to report.



# Reminders

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- All ALFs **must** offer a complete series of a one- or two-dose COVID-19 vaccine to residents/staff and document each resident's choice to vaccinate or not.
- ALFs no longer submit attestation form or receive approved visitation designation and plexiglass barriers or booths no longer required for indoor visits.
- ALFs **must** develop and enforce policies/procedures that ensure infection control practices, including whether visitor/resident must wear a mask.



# Reminders

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ALF **must** offer a complete series of a one- or two-dose COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff and document each resident's choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate.

"Offer":

Administer  
**or**  
Arrange/Assist  
**or**  
Educate/Give  
Info

**AND**

Document the  
resident's  
choice to  
vaccinate or  
not vaccinate.



# Reminders

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- All ALFs **must** allow visitation
- ALF must screen all individuals who enter the facility prior to entry
- ALF can allow both scheduled and unscheduled visits
- Use of scheduled visits must not prohibit or limit visitation
- All visits must allow time for cleaning and sanitization of specific areas used during visitation



# Reminders

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An ALF may ask about a visitor's COVID-19 vaccination status but **must not** require a visitor to provide documentation of his/her 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.

# Entry into LTC Facilities

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## [Provider Letter 2021-33, Authority to Enter Long-term Care Facilities \(PDF\)](#)

This letter reminds providers that they must allow persons providing critical assistance and providers of essential services to enter the facility if they pass the facility's COVID-19 screening.

This includes allowing HCSSA providers and their staff to conduct service delivery with residents.

# COVID-19 and Allergy Symptoms

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## **What do you do if staff have a symptom listed in the screening criteria but claim it is due to allergies?**

If during any screening procedure a staff member self-reports symptoms that could be consistent with COVID-19, that staff member should be prepared to provide evidence that the symptoms are not due to COVID-19 infection.

An ALF may choose to take additional precautions in situations where someone presents with a symptom or symptoms listed in the screening criteria, but the symptoms are being attributed to something other than COVID-19.



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# Mobile Vaccination Clinics

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ALFs can contact the [HHSC LTCR Regional Director](#) in the region where the facility is located. Request a mobile vaccination clinic at your facility.

The mobile vaccination clinic can administer first, second, or third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff.

Facilities may need to make alternate arrangements for staff and residents to receive any more doses after the vaccination clinic.



# Reminders

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## PL 2021-01

ALFs must continue to report vaccination data to HHSC via [survey](#).

- Within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations
- Aggregate number of staff (employees, contractors, volunteers)
- Aggregate number of residents
- Report vaccinations administered by facility or pharmacy partner
- Include additional dose vaccinations administered

# LTC Providers May Request COVID-19 Emergency Support

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For Emergency Staffing Support, the Office of the Governor directed DSHS to use staffing agencies to provide medical personnel from out-of-state to Texas health care facilities to assist in COVID-19 operations.

Providers must demonstrate that they have exhausted all other options and have an urgent need for assistance before requesting emergency staffing support.

To initiate a request, [contact the HHSC LTCR Regional Director](#) in the region where the facility is located.

HHSC LTCR staff are responsible for initiating a State of Texas Assistance Request on behalf of the LTC provider. HHSC LTCR staff may request supporting documentation to verify need.

# CDC Guidance: Accessing COVID-19 Vaccine

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## Updated CDC Guidance for LTC Facilities on Accessing COVID-19 Vaccine – Sept. 2021

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently updated resources for long-term care facilities on how to help residents and staff access COVID-19 vaccines:

- [Vaccine Access in Long-term Care Settings](#)
- [Care Administrators and Managers: Options for Coordinating Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [Jurisdictions Can Ensure COVID-19 Vaccine Access for Staff and Residents in Long-term Care Settings](#)



# DSHS COVID-19 Resources

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- [DSHS Dashboard](#)
  - Confirmed Cases
  - Probable Cases
  - Fatalities
  - Active Cases
  - Recovered
- [COVID-19 Home Page](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Webinars](#)
- [Delta Variant FAQs](#)

# Update: SB 809 / Rider 143 Report

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**Update:** Providers who previously submitted this survey on or before November 8, 2021, must complete this survey again in order to complete the new questions in "Section 2 - Relief Funding Information."

**Reporting:** [The initial report](#) includes funding and cost data covering the period of January 2020 through August 2021 and is due October 1, 2021. [The subsequent reports](#) will be ongoing on a monthly basis and will cover a single month; each monthly report will be due on the 15th of the month following the end of the month (for example, the report for September 2021 data was due October 15, 2021).

# Update: SB 809 / Rider 143 Report

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**Grace Period:** HHSC is granting a “grace period” to allow providers time to come into compliance if they fail to meet any deadlines between October 1, 2021, and November 30, 2021. While deadlines to report will not change, HHSC will not take any of the available actions against a provider as long as the provider submits all the required reports due between October 1, 2021, and November 30, 2021. The grace period ends December 1, 2021.

**Information and FAQs:** Please visit the [HHSC Provider Finance Department Communications web page](#) for more information about the report. Click on “Monthly SB 809/Rider 143 COVID-19 Reporting.”



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# Holiday Activities

Can a small group (local club or group of HS seniors) volunteer in the facility to put up holiday decorations and participate in an activity with the residents?





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# Holiday Activities



Can the facility organize an outing to take residents in facility buses to see holiday lights?



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# Holiday Dining

Can families join a resident for Thanksgiving dinner at the facility if we have individual family tables with distance between the tables?





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# Holiday Food



Can family members bring cookies for all of the residents to enjoy?

# Emergency Preparedness and Response

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It is never too early to prepare for cold weather conditions. Review your plan and prepare for a disaster or emergency.

If your facility uses an emergency generator, routine maintenance and testing is required.





# Webinar Recordings and PDFs

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## Where can I find a copy of last month's webinar?

Recordings and PDFs of previous ALF webinars are available from the [ALF Portal](#).

Click on COVID-19 Resources to expand the accordion to access resources and webinars.

A recording of the October 13, 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 \(PDF\).](#)



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# GovDelivery

## How do I get an email invitation to the webinars?

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

# December ALF Provider COVID-19 Webinar

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## ALF Provider COVID-19 Webinar

- December 8

# Flu & COVID-19

## What You Need to Know

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This webinar will review the similarities and the differences between Flu and COVID-19, the importance of getting the Flu and COVID vaccines, and how vaccinations along with good infection control practices protect everyone.

No CE hours/units are available for this webinar. A certificate of attendance will be provided.

- November 16<sup>th</sup> 10:00-11:00 AM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6421966361512529934>

- December 9<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:00 PM

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1170747205921097227>



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# Joint Training Opportunities

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/training/jointtraining.cfm>



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ABOUT HHS SERVICES DOING BUSINESS WITH HHS LAWS & REGULATIONS CONTACT

## Provider Training

Provider Training

**Joint Training**

HCSSA Training

CLASS Training

HCS & TxHmL Joint Training

Training Initiatives

FMSA Training

HCS Billing Guidelines Training

HCS Applicant Examinations

HCS/TxHmL Applicant Training

TxHmL Applicant Examinations

Web-based training

## Joint Training Opportunities

Seminar	Date/Time	Location	Class Availability
<b>November 2021</b>			
Transition to Practice (TTP) in the Nursing Home Setting Series Module 2: Promoting Holistic Care in the Nursing Home Setting - Module 2 of 4 ( <a href="#">course description</a> )	Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Webinar (100 MAX)	<a href="#">Register for Webinar</a>
Six Keys to Self-Reporting ANE and Other Incidents (NF) ( <a href="#">course description</a> )	Friday, November 12, 2021 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Webinar (100 MAX)	<a href="#">Register for Webinar</a>
CNA Series: Role of the CNA - Part 1 ( <a href="#">course description</a> )	Friday, November 12, 2021 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Webinar (100 MAX)	<a href="#">Register for Webinar</a>
Scope and Severity Training for ALFs, DAHS, ICF/IID and PPECC Providers ( <a href="#">course description</a> )	Monday, November 15, 2021 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Webinar (100 MAX)	<a href="#">Register for Webinar</a>
Nursing Scope of Practice for Long-term Care Communities ( <a href="#">course description</a> )	Friday, November 19, 2021	Webinar (100	<a href="#">Register for Webinar</a>



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# COVID-19 Webinars for LTC

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View recorded webinars from Texas HHSC Joint Training on COVID-related topics in LTC:

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/covid-19webinarsforltc>

- Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Texas ALFS-DAHS
- Creating a Culture of Normalcy within COVID-19
- Meaningful Activities in ALFs within COVID-19 Regulations



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# LTC Ombudsman

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**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)



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# Webinar Q&A

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# How to Contact

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## **Jennifer Morrison, Manager**

[Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov)

## **LTCR Policy Mailbox**

[LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto: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!**

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