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**Welcome ICF Providers!**

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTC  
Regulation and DSHS**

**October 4, 2021**

For more information:

Web: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-provider-information>

Email: [LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov)

Phone: 512-438-3161

# COVID-19 Updates

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## Panelist

Susie Weirether

IDD Policy and Rule Manager

Long-term Care Regulations

Policy and Rules

[LTCRPolicy@hhs.Texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.Texas.gov)



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# **\*Reminder: Sign-up for GovDelivery to receive alerts\***

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**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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# Resources

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The following resources are available on the [ICF Provider Portal](#):

- Under “COVID-19 Resources”
  - [ICF Visitation Table.](#)
  - [Infection Control Basics & Personal Protective Equipment for Essential Caregivers](#)
  - [ICF/IID COVID-19 Response Emergency Rule \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Expanded Reopening Visitation Rules](#)
  - [COVID FAQ](#)
  - [ICF COVID Response Plan](#)
  - [ICF/IID Provider COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting Rule](#)
- Click on “Provider Communications”
  - [PL 21-04](#) HHSC COVID-19 Reporting Process
  - [PL 21-05](#) COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting
  - [PL 21-10](#) COVID-19 Response – Expansion of Reopening Visitation (replaces PL 2020-43)

# COVID-19 Q&A Webinar

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## COVID-19 Q&A Webinar Schedule

November 1, 2021

December 6, 2021

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Email: [LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov)  
Phone: 512-438-3161

Also, as a reminder, the PowerPoint slides will be available on the Provider Portal shortly after the webinar is completed, typically within 48-72 hours.



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# 2021 ICF Conference

## Save the Date

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November 17, 2021

The Stronger Together conference will feature a keynote message from Lori Porter. There will be separate sessions for providers and surveyors.

Be on the lookout. Registration begins Oct. 6 and information will be on the way soon. [Access the ICF/IID conference flyer \(PDF\)](#) to learn more.

[Email Joint Training for more details.](#)



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# HHSC Publishes Amended Statutory Cap Regarding Administrative Penalties for ICFs (PL 21-34)

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HHSC published [Provider Letter 21-34 Amended Statutory Cap Regarding Administrative Penalties for Intermediate Care Facilities.](#)

PL 21-34 notifies providers of changes to how HHSC determines and imposes administrative penalties based on changes made by House Bill 3720 (87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021).



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## **HHSC Revises Approved Diagnostic Codes for Persons with Related Conditions List (IL 2021-44)**

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HHSC has revised the HHSC-Approved Diagnostic Codes for Persons with Related Conditions List. Beginning Oct. 1, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will implement an annual update to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, (ICD-10) code set, which includes new and revised ICD-10 diagnostic codes.

[Read the updated information letter IL 2021-44 \(PDF\).](#)

[Email Questions to ICFIID Questions.](#) In the subject line please use "Information Letter No. 2021-44."



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# COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting

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HHSC expects providers to report **all known data**, no matter where the vaccine was administered or who administered it. This includes:

- Report all vaccinations administered on- or off-site.
- Report booster doses of the vaccine.

You can access the ICF survey at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/95FQ52S>

[COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting Rule](#)



# LTC Provider COVID-19 Resources

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[Federal COVID-19 Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#) are being distributed to cities and counties throughout Texas. HHSC urges long-term care providers in need of COVID-19 resources to:

- Contact your city, county or [regional advisory council](#) to find out if resources or funds will be available for health care staffing support, testing services, resident or site assessment, and disinfecting services as these resources are no longer available through HHSC.
- Call 844-90-TEXAS to ask for a Mobile Vaccination Team to come out to your facility for mobile COVID-19 vaccination needs.
- Contact DSHS:
  - ❖ [To become a COVID-19 vaccinator.](#)
  - ❖ [To ask for COVID-19 vaccine.](#)



## LTC Providers COVID-19 Resources

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For COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing Kits, PPE, Disinfection, and HAI/EPI Support Long-term care providers can request:

- COVID-19 mobile vaccine clinics for residents and staff
- BinaxNow testing kits. [Read PL 2020-49](#) for details.
- PPE (providers should exhaust all other options before request)
- Facility cleaning and disinfection
- Healthcare-associated infection and epidemiological support

To Request Support:

- To initiate a request for COVID-19 support described above, [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 long-term care provider.
- HHSC LTCR staff may request supporting documentation to verify need.

# Governor's Executive Order - Facemasks

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Governmental entities, including HHSC, cannot mandate the use of masks. ICFs must develop and enforce policies and procedures for infection control.

Providers must continue to comply with applicable HHSC infection control rules.

[View the Governor's Executive Order](#)



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# Governor's Executive Order - Facemasks

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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 visitation rules and will notify long-term care providers by govDelivery alert when new rules are adopted.



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# CDC Guidance

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CDC guidance for healthcare settings (including ICF/IIDs) updated as of September 10, 2021.

[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)



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# CDC Guidance

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Key changes for ICFs:

- No changes to the PPE recommended for the care of individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection.
- Quarantine no longer recommended for fully vaccinated individuals with exposure to COVID-19 or those residents who have had COVID-19 infection in the prior 90 days.

Reminder: There may be circumstances when Transmission-Based Precautions (quarantine) for these individuals might be recommended (e.g., patient is moderately to severely immunocompromised, if the initial diagnosis of COVID-19 might have been based on a false positive test result).



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# CDC Guidance

CDC guidance as of September 1, 2021:

- In areas with substantial and high transmission, CDC recommends that everyone (including fully vaccinated individuals) wear a mask in public indoor settings to help prevent spread of Delta and protect others.
- Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they are immunocompromised or at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated.

[Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)



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# Quarantine Guidance

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For individuals 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**

CDC guidance: [Science Brief: Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing](#)

# COVID-19 Reporting

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ICF/IIDs are **only required** to report to HHSC within 24 hours of:

- a facility's first positive case of COVID-19, or
- a new positive case of COVID-19 after a facility has been without a new case of COVID-19 for 14 days or more.

Facilities **should not** report COVID-19 positive cases to HHSC outside of the two reportable events listed above. Additionally, the reportable events listed above **do not** include an individual that was admitted to the facility with an active COVID-19 infection or a individual that developed COVID-19 while in quarantine upon being admitted to the facility.

# COVID-19 Reporting

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If a facility has a **new** reportable COVID-19 positive case, and **has not reported** a COVID-19 positive case to HHSC **within the past 14 days**, the facility must:

- report the case to HHSC Complaint and Incident Intake (CII) through the Texas Unified Licensure Information Portal (TULIP) or by calling 1-800-458-9858 within 24 hours of the confirmed positive result; and
- complete and submit Form 3613-A Provider Investigation Report within five days from the day a confirmed case is reported to CII. The provider investigation report can be submitted:
  - ❖ via TULIP
  - ❖ by email at [ciiprovider@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:ciiprovider@hhs.texas.gov); or
  - ❖ by fax at 877-438-5827

# COVID-19 Reporting

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Providers must contact their local health department or DSHS if they receive a positive test result for their facility.

Per DSHS, the information must be reported by the provider, regardless of whether the lab reports. This is in order to link the report to the geographical area where the person lives, which may be different than where the testing occurs. This enables accurate tracking and analysis, as well as the appropriate deployment of resources.

If providers suspect a case of COVID-19, they should contact the local health department/authority, or DSHS if a local health department is not available. Test results from the local health department do get reported to DSHS. The notification to the LHD is sufficient.



# COVID-19 Vaccines

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[CDC recommends](#), as of September 24, 2021:

- people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- people aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,



# COVID-19 Vaccines

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- people aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.



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# COVID-19 Vaccines

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According to the CDC, a booster shot will help strengthen protection against severe disease in those populations who are at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19 or the complications from severe disease.

CDC will continue to monitor the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure appropriate recommendations to keep all Americans safe.



# COVID-19 Vaccine Resources

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HHSC Long-term Care Regulation published [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#)

HHSC & DSHS have published [Long-term Care COVID-19 Vaccination Options \(PDF\)](#)

CDC COVID-19 vaccine resource pages:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [COVID-19 One-Stop Shop Toolkits](#)
- [Vaccine Recipient Education](#)

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

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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](#)



# Delta Variant in the US

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## **CDC recommends urgent action:**

- Get vaccinated as soon as possible. Residents, LTC facility staff, and visitors should be fully vaccinated to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Wear a mask regardless of vaccination status:
  - LTC facility staff should continue to wear a facemask or personal protective equipment when around residents or in the facility.
  - LTC facility staff should wear [full PPE](#) such as gloves, gown, N95 respirator and eye protection when working with residents who are COVID-19 positive or of unknown COVID-19 status.



# Delta Variant in the US

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- Fully vaccinated visitors should use a mask when in the public areas of the facility such as hallways and common areas for source control. It is also safest to use a mask when visiting privately with residents. Visitors who are not fully vaccinated should always use a mask.
- Encourage residents to wear a mask when outside of their room, especially when unvaccinated or when in counties with high rates of COVID-19.
- Stay home if you feel ill. Do not go to work or visit an LTC facility if you have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Get tested. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 or known exposure, regardless of vaccination status, should receive a viral test immediately.

**Get answers to your vaccine questions at CDC's Vaccinate with Confidence:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccinate-with-confidence/strategy.html>

# DSHS COVID-19 Dashboard

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

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

The dashboard is updated by 4PM daily.



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# COVID-19 DSHS

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## Panelist

David Gruber

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Health Operations

DSHS

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# COVID-19 Medicaid/CHIP Division

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## Panelist

Dana Williamson

Director, Policy Development and Support

Medicaid/CHIP Division



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Kristi Miller

Manager, Policy Development Support

Medicaid/CHIP Division

# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

Kirsten Notaro, MA  
ICF Policy Specialist  
Policy, Rules and Training  
Long-term Care Regulatory

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- COVID-19 Q&A
- Live Q&A



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Question:

Do individuals who are fully vaccinated have to be quarantined?

## Answer:

CDC updated quarantine recommendations for fully vaccinated patients who have had close contact with someone with a COVID-19 infection to more closely align with recommendations for the community.



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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In general, the following patients who are asymptomatic do not require quarantine following [close contact](#) with someone with a COVID-19 infection:

- Fully vaccinated patients
- Patients who have had a COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days



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# Questions?

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Email: [LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov)

Phone: 512-438-3161



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# Thank you!

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