



## Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter

**Number:** PL 2022-04 (Revised)

**Title:** Training Requirements for Nurse Aides and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs

**Provider Types:** Nursing Facility (NF) and Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSA)

**Date Issued:** March 1, 2022

### 1.0 Subject and Purpose

This letter provides guidance about the recently-amended rules for Nurse Aides and Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) providers and certified nurse aides (CNAs) in [26 Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\) Chapter 556](#). The amended rules add infection control training requirements for both NATCEPs and CNAs.

This letter was revised on March 1, 2022, to include information regarding HCSSAs and to provide some additional clarification.

A CNA who wants to keep his or her Texas certification current must comply with the requirements in this PL regardless of the setting where he or she is employed. For example, if a HCSSA or other licensed provider employs an individual who is a CNA, the individual must follow all requirements in order to keep his or her CNA certification up-to-date.

### 2.0 Policy Details & Provider Responsibilities

Effective August 8, 2021, HHSC adopted amended rules for NATCEP providers and CNAs. The amended rules:

- allow a NATCEP to offer certain components of required training online;
- increase the number of hours of infection control training a NATCEP must provide; and
- require all CNAs to complete a course in infection control each year.

A NATCEP must teach eight hours of infection control training that includes the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) before the nurse aide can have direct contact with a nursing facility resident.<sup>1</sup> A NATCEP must incorporate eight hours of infection control, including proper PPE use, into their training curriculum.

Additionally, a CNA must complete a course in infection control and proper use of PPE (IPC/PPE) every year.<sup>2</sup> Beginning April 1, 2022, all CNA renewal applications must include **a statement of affirmation that this training has been completed. When a CNA submits a renewal application to HHSC, they are required to indicate whether they have completed the IPC/PPE training on an annual basis. A CNA does **not** submit IPC/PPE training completion certificates to HHSC but should keep copies of those certificates in case HHSC asks to see them.**

Both HHSC and **the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)** provide online infection control training free of charge. **CMS is the federal oversight agency responsible for regulating CNAs.** A CNA must take either the HHSC or CMS training to meet this requirement:

- HHSC's [Infection Control for Nurse Aides Computer-based Training, Modules 1 through 5](#); or
- CMS' [Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Staff](#).

### 3.0 Background/History

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, HHSC implemented requirements for a wide range of long-term care facility employees to complete training in the area of infection control and using PPE, as well as flexibilities for staff to complete components of their training online. The amended rules described

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<sup>1</sup> [26 TAC §556.3\(l\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [26 TAC §556.9\(d\)\(3\)](#)

here take further steps in both of these directions. Both federal and state agencies have developed and administered a variety of measures to protect both residents and staff from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

#### **4.0 Resources**

- HHSC's [Infection Control for Nurse Aides Computer-based Training, Modules 1 through 5](#)
- CMS' [Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Staff](#)
- Updated NATCEP and CNA rules: [26 TAC Chapter 556](#)

#### **5.0 Contact Information**

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Nurse Aide Registry program at [NurseAideRegistry@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:NurseAideRegistry@hhs.texas.gov) or call 512-438-2050.