This document provides guidance to Assisted Living Facilities on Response Actions in the event of a COVID-19 exposure.
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I. Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide assisted living facilities (ALFs) with response guidance in the event of a positive COVID-19 case associated with the facility.

II. Goals:

- Rapid identification of COVID-19 in an ALF
- Prevention of spread within the facility
- Protection of residents, staff, and visitors
- Provision of care for an infected resident(s)
- Recovery from an in-house COVID-19 event

III. Summary:

Residents of long-term care (LTC) facilities are more susceptible to COVID-19 infection and the detrimental impact of the virus than the general population. In addition to the susceptibility of residents, a LTC environment presents challenges to infection control and the ability to contain an outbreak with potentially rapid spread among a highly vulnerable population.

This document provides LTC facilities immediate actions to consider and actions for extended periods after a facility is made aware of potential infection of a resident, provider, or visitor.

IV. Description of an ALF:

Assisted living services are driven by a philosophy that emphasizes personal dignity and autonomy that allows residents to age in place while receiving increasing or decreasing levels of services as their needs change. The ALF must provide for the needs of each resident, including room and board, social services, medication administration (as needed), and personal care services. Texas has two primary licensure types of ALFs: Type A and Type B, which is based on the capability of the residents to self-evacuate the facility, the types of services the facility provides, or both. Facility size also varies: a small facility is licensed for 16 or fewer residents, while a large facility is licensed for 17 or more.

In a Type A facility, residents are typically more independent, don’t require routine attendance during nighttime sleeping hours, are capable of following directions in emergency situations, and are physically and mentally capable of evacuating the facility without assistance from staff.
In a Type B facility, residents require staff assistance during nighttime sleeping hours, are incapable of following directions under emergency conditions, and require staff assistance to evacuate the facility.

V. ALFs and COVID-19

Facility Environment:

ALFs also come in a wide variety of physical environments. A facility’s ability to respond effectively to COVID-19 could depend on a variety of factors, including the age and size of the facility and its ability to readily isolate residents.

*Impact of environment on COVID-19 response*:

An ALF’s design may present challenges to effectively support social distancing measures while at the same time housing numerous residents who might require quarantine measures such as isolation. Any limitations of the physical environment mean many of the protective measures required to limit potential exposure and spread must be accomplished by staff who are already working under extreme conditions.

ALF rooms can promote social distancing in a variety of ways. For example, dining and activities can take place in resident rooms and when able, residents can participate in medication passes while remaining in their doorways. Current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for ALFs state that communal activities, including dining, should be canceled, and no more than 10 people, maintaining at least 6 feet of separation, should be in a room at any time. Meals can be served in the dining room for residents who require assistance with feeding if social distancing is practiced.

Facility Demographics:

ALFs are located in metropolitan, urban, and rural locales having characteristics that affect workforce availability, health care system support, and interactions with public health, emergency care, and jurisdictional administration. Texas currently has 2,002 licensed ALFs.

*Impact of facility demographics on COVID-19 response*:
ALFs in more densely populated locations are likely to experience higher risk for exposure among staff and visitors. As a result, facilities in metropolitan and urban areas have a higher risk of infection and face more challenges controlling spread when infection occurs. They are also more likely to face staffing shortages because of competitive job markets.

ALFs in more rural locations have less health care system support, might not have local health authorities, and have smaller staffing pools, making it harder to cover shortages that result from exposure. Rural facilities might also be more challenged to find equipment, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary to care for COVID-19 positive residents.

**Facility Considerations:**

Facilities might have small or large bed capacity within buildings differing in age, size, available space, and equipment. Available services also differ by facility type (for example, a Type A cannot have a certification for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease), which affects the level of available care; additionally, the types of outside health care providers will also vary.

**Impact of facility considerations on COVID-19 response:**

Some ALFs have either limited or no isolation rooms available. Bed capacity (along with staff and PPE availability) also affects the number of residents for which each facility can provide care. COVID-19 positive residents will increase the need for staff and resources, which may further limit the number of residents for which a facility can provide services.

**Resident Demographics:**

Resident conditions will vary physically and mentally, affecting mobility and intellectual capacity.

**Impact of resident demographics on COVID-19 response:**

Certain ALF residents will need care from medical professionals who are in increasingly short supply as the pandemic continues. ALF residents may also receive essential care from outside service providers, resulting in additional personnel entering the facility.

Additionally, residents with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease are often unable to express themselves when they experience symptoms and could unknowingly (and without staff knowing) spread the virus if infected. This population is also less likely to understand why social distancing and
quarantine are necessary and can present challenging behaviors when staff attempt to enforce such restrictions.

Residents with fewer personal care needs may be more independent and might resist curtailing excursions into the community and social activities.

**ALF Staffing Considerations:**

The ALF workforce can include medical professionals and direct care staff such as: registered nurses (RNs), licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), certified nurse aides (CNAs), medication aides, unlicensed attendants, facility support staff, and other skilled and non-skilled workers. Rules require ALFs to provide staffing ratios based upon the needs of the residents, as identified in their individual service plans.

**Impact of ALF staffing considerations on COVID-19 response:**

Some ALF residents’ daily activities such as dining, bathing, grooming and ambulating require partial or total assistance from facility staff. Caring for someone with COVID-19 requires additional time and resources, including PPE to maintain infection control and protect other residents and staff. As staff are exposed, become symptomatic, or test positive for COVID-19, the available workforce will decline, making it even more challenging for ALFs to provide care.

Additionally, ALFs are not required to have a physician on-site to assess and treat a resident who is symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19. Staffing shortages resulting from possible exposure could lead to ALFs refusing to admit residents because they won’t have the ability to provide care.

ALF staff may also work in more than one facility, so if an employee is exposed, it is likely they will expose residents and staff in more than one facility, making it difficult to contain spread. Small facilities have fewer staff, making it challenging to maintain adequate staffing should staff become ill or not come to work.

**Visitors:**

During routine ALF operations, visitors including family members, volunteers, consultants, external providers, and contractors all routinely enter facilities. Many provide essential services for the facility to function, or in the case of service providers such as hospice staff, provide services critical to resident care. It is important to note current CDC and state
guidance requires ALFs to restrict visitors to only those who are providing critical assistance, which includes the following:

- Persons who provide essential services such as doctors, nurses, home health and hospice staff whose services are necessary to ensure resident care is provided and to protect the health and safety of residents.
- Individuals with legal authority to enter such as HHSC surveyors whose presence is necessary to ensure the ALF is protecting the health and safety of residents and providing appropriate care, and,
- Family members and loved ones of residents at the end of life.

There is no “one size fits all”, and facilities should use their best judgement to determine which persons are “essential” and which are not.

*Impact of visitors on COVID-19 response:*

Despite efforts to screen visitors prior to entering a facility, every person allowed inside the building increases the risk of infection. Some people will present as asymptomatic during screening but will have COVID-19 and unknowingly spread the virus. Some visitors will not follow standard precautions such as proper hand-washing, use of hand sanitizer, use of PPE, isolation protocols, and limiting the number of areas in the building that they access, all of which increase the risk of infection for residents and staff.

**VI. To Dos for ALFs:**

- Provide information to residents, family members and personnel about COVID-19 (including information about signs and symptoms) and strategies to [managing stress and anxiety](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/long-term-care/stress-anxiety.html).
- Review resident isolation/quarantine plans with staff.
- Review handwashing, surface cleaning, and other environmental hygiene precautions with staff.
- Report every *confirmed* COVID-19 case to the local health department (LHD) or the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). In addition, a confirmed COVID-19 case must also be reported to HHSC.
- Obtain and properly use PPE; if PPE is not available, document efforts to obtain PPE.
- Comply with all CDC guidance related to infection control. (Frequently monitor CDC guidance as it is being updated often. For additional
resources on infection control, visit the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology)

• For the duration of the state of emergency, all ALF personnel must wear a facemask while in the facility. Staff who have been appropriately trained and fit-tested can use N95 respirators.
• Actively screen and monitor everyone who comes into the facility.
• To prevent transmission, ALFs should use separate staffing teams for COVID-19-positive residents to the best of their ability. They also should work with state and local leaders to designate alternative facilities or units within a facility to separate COVID-19-negative residents from COVID-19-positive residents, as well as those with unknown COVID-19 status.
• Quarantine residents with exposure or symptoms and monitor their condition.
• Isolate residents with positive cases from residents who are not positive.
• Rigorously clean and sanitize the facility that has a positive case.
• Coordinate resident diagnoses and symptoms when transferring or receiving residents from any setting, including hospitals or other ALFs.
• Communicate with residents, staff, and family when there is exposure and confirmed cases in the facility.
• Keep an up-to-date list of all staff who work in other facilities.
• Require staff self-monitoring on days they work and on days they don’t.
• Require staff to report via phone prior to reporting for work if they have known exposure or symptoms.
• Post a list of state contacts where it is visible on all shifts.
• Follow DSHS guidance on when staff recovering from COVID-19 can return to work.
• Work with the local health department/authority and DSHS to determine a COVID-19 testing strategy for residents and HCP, to include testing of all staff and residents when there is a confirmed case in the facility.
• Utilize the ASPR TRACIE workforce virtual toolkit.

VII. S.P.I.C.E.

Recognizing that a potential COVID-19 situation in a facility can result in disorientation, questions, and confusion, this document directs that ALFs focus on the following five basic actions to anchor their response activities:

• Surveillance – monitor for symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache,
sore throat, new loss of taste or smell and difficulty breathing for each resident at least once each shift.
• **Protection/PPE** – protect workforce and residents through soap/water; hand sanitizer; facemask; if coughing or potential splash precautions are needed, wear a gown and face/eye shields. Refer to the latest DSHS guidance.
• **Isolate** – residents with confirmed cases need to be isolated.
• **Communicate** – call the local health department/authority or DSHS, as well as HHSC, when any case is confirmed.
• **Evaluate** – assess infection control processes, spread of infection and mitigation efforts, staffing availability.

S.P.I.C.E. is not meant to be all-encompassing. It is suggested to assist initial actions and serve as a reminder of required activities.

**VIII. HHSC Long-term Care Regulatory Activities with ALFs that have Positive COVID-19 Cases**

For a report of a positive COVID-19 test (resident or staff) in an ALF, Long-term Care Regulatory (LTCR) will take the following actions:

• Verify the ALF is prohibiting non-essential visitors.
• **Generate an incident intake for potential investigation.**
• Conduct a focused review of facility infection control processes.
• Communicate with the local health department/local health authority and DSHS.
• Determine the number of residents positive for COVID-19.
• Determine the number of staff positive for COVID-19.
• Review facility isolation precautions and determine how residents are isolated in the facility (dedicated wing/unit, private room) to ensure compliance with requirements.
• **Determine whether facilities have implemented a testing strategy to include testing of all staff and residents when a facility has a confirmed case.**
• Determine that all staff suspected or positive for COVID-19 have been sent home and the facility knows to coordinate any return to work with the local health department.
• Determine if facilities have sufficient amounts of PPE.
• Determine if facilities are screening residents and staff, and at what frequency.
• Determine if others (contract staff, family members) are also being tested.
• Determine if there is a local control or quarantine order.
• Ensure the control/quarantine orders are followed.
• Perform a call-down to all other facilities in the county when staff at one facility tests positive for COVID-19.
• Determine whether facilities are following rules and regulations related to admission and discharge and are readmitting residents when appropriate.
• Determine whether staff, residents, and families are notified of positive COVID-19 cases in the facility.
• Track facilities by program type and number of positive cases.
• Track hospitalizations of COVID-19-positive ALF residents.
• Track deaths of COVID-19-positive ALF residents.
• Maintain communication with facilities after investigations are complete to obtain updates.

IX. Facility Activities Required for ALF COVID-19 Response

In Advance (actions focused on response)
• Review/create a COVID-19 plan for residents
• Determine/review who is responsible for specific functions under the facility plans
• Identify desired or applicable waivers
• Develop a communication plan (external and internal)
• Evaluate supplies/resources
• Enact resident/staff/visitor screening
• Determine what community sources are available for COVID testing and how, if possible, residents and staff can be tested (a “testing plan”)
• Evaluate supply chains and other resources for essential materials

Immediate (0-24 hours)
• Activate resident isolation/facility cohort plan, including establishing a unit, wing, or group of rooms for any COVID-19 positive residents
• Supply PPE to care for COVID-19 positive residents
• Screen residents for signs and symptoms
• Screen staff for signs and symptoms
• Clean and disinfect the facility
• Determine if health care personnel (HCP) are providing services in other facilities
• Establish contact with receiving agencies (hospitals, other facilities)
• Identify lead at facility and determine stakeholders involved external to facility
• Engage with community partners (public health, health care, organizational leadership, local/state administrators)
• Activate all communication plans
• Determine need for facility restrictions/lock-down
• Maintain resident care
• Work with the local health department/authority or DSHS to activate testing strategy to include testing of all staff and residents

**Extended (24-72 hours)**
• Supply PPE for HCP and staff
• Screen residents for signs and symptoms
• Activate resident transport (resident out/in) protocols
• Establish contact with transporting/receiving agencies (hospitals, other facilities)
• Engage with external partners
• Determine need for facility restrictions/lock-down
• Maintain resident care

**Long Term (72 hours plus)**
• Screen residents for signs and symptoms
• Continue decontamination procedures
• Establish contact with transporting/receiving agencies (hospitals, other facilities)
• Maintain resident care

**X. State\Regional\Local Support**

HHSC will serve as the lead state agency in the state’s response to an LTC COVID-19 event and take the following actions:

• Developing testing recommendations in consultation with DSHS
• Assisting with and ensuring appropriate movement of residents from one facility to another
• Providing subject matter experts (SME)
• Coordinating with local emergency management
• Contact providers to ensure they have current information that has been sent out on COVID-19

**Texas COVID-19 Assistance Team - ALF**

HHSC also is coordinating a Texas COVID-19 Assistance Team – ALF (TCAT-ALF), which includes representatives from HHSC, DSHS, local health department (as applicable), and emergency management (as applicable.) These teams assist ALFs with management of a COVID-19 event through provision of subject matter expertise, resource request management, and support through initial response activities. The TCAT-ALF will remain
available for a maximum of 48 hours from activation. State and local entities will provide SMEs and continued assistance after TCAT-ALF deactivation.

To activate TACT-ALF assistance, contact the LTCR Associate Commissioner.
ATTACHMENT 1: Immediate Response Guidelines

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (0-24 hours)

FACILITY ACTIONS

REVIEW SPICE ACTIVITIES

Prevent further disease spread
- Determine number of residents potentially infected.
- Determine number of staff potentially infected.
- Invoke isolation precautions/plans.
- Determine who has been tested.
- If applicable, invoke quarantine or control order.
- Identify if exposed staff are working in other facilities.
- Work with the local health department or DSHS to activate testing strategy to include testing of all staff and residents if a facility has a positive case.

Create an isolation wing/unit
- If possible, identify a separate, well-ventilated area to use as an isolation area. Use an isolated wing, unit, or floor that provides meaningful separation between COVID-19 positive residents and the space where the facility cares for residents who are COVID-19 negative or untested and asymptomatic. A curtain or a moveable screen does not provide meaningful separation.
- When possible, use an area with an entrance separated from the rest of the building. Use a separated isolation space so the essential staff maintaining the building or providing services to residents in the isolation space are not required to go through areas where negative or asymptomatic residents are receiving care.
- Provide hand hygiene areas as needed, including inside and outside of the entrance to isolation area when possible.
- Use a private bedroom with its own bathroom for each resident when possible.
- Use a semi-private bedroom and cohort COVID-19 positive residents if necessary. If a resident with COVID-19 has another infectious disease that requires transmission-based precautions, they need to be in a single occupancy room.
- House a resident in the same bedroom for their entire stay while in the isolation unit/wing when possible.
- Limit resident transport and movement to medically essential purposes only.
• Use dedicated HCP and staff for the isolation area.
• Minimize traffic in and out of the isolation area.
• Provide adequate staff with training, skills, and competencies for COVID-19 care.
• Provide dedicated and adequate PPE, supplies, and equipment for use in the isolation area.
• Train HCP and staff on proper use and maintenance of PPE, per CDC guidance.
• Use dedicated staff to provide meal services and cleaning in the isolation area.
• Transfer all of a resident’s personal belongings to a new bedroom in the isolation area, and ensure all belongings are disinfected before they are moved out of the isolation area.

HCP/staff leaving and entering isolation wing/unit
• Directly after entering the isolation area and prior to donning PPE, perform hand hygiene
• Put on proper PPE
• Perform hand hygiene before and after performing resident care
• Directly before exiting the isolation area, remove PPE
• Perform hand hygiene
• Exit isolation area, and directly after leaving the isolation area, perform hand hygiene

Protect from infection
• Enact PPE plans
• Determine PPE supplies
• Screen all residents/others entering facility
• Contact other facilities where exposed individuals might have visited/worked
• Consult with local health department regarding testing
• Limit staff in contact with residents infected or exposed

Care for residents who are infected
• Isolate residents who are infected
• Identify cohorts (exposed, infected)
• Determine level of required care
• Determine if hospitalization and transport are required
• Notify local health care/EMS
• Track signs/symptoms

Other
• Contact LHD/DSHS regional office/health authority (HA)
• Ensure all relevant regulations/rules are followed
• Notify families, staff, residents of situation
• Track tested, positive, isolated, quarantined, hospitalized, and deaths
• Activate emergency response command structure
• Identify specific points of contact (POCs) for communication with HHSC, local government, clinical staff, and press
• Maintain central database of external contacts and phone numbers

Creating a voluntary isolation ALF
• Identify ALF location to use as an isolation facility
• Identify service and supply vendors and notify them of anticipated operations start date. Example: transportation, oxygen supply, laundry, hospice agencies.
• Arrange for PPE supplies and HCP/staff training.
• Discharge current residents to other ALFs in the area if needed, working with residents and families, guardians, and local LTC ombudsman.
• Standard discharge requirements apply, and resident’s rights are still protected. If current residents do not want to move to another ALF, they are not required to move, and the facility should take all actions necessary to protect them from possible COVID-19 exposure.
• Follow steps for establishing an isolation wing/unit if residents do not want to move.
• When residents move, transfer all personal belongings to limit the risk of contamination.
• Work with the LHD or DSHs to test residents per the testing strategy prior to moving them to other ALFs.
• Staffing considerations:
  o Provide additional training specific to caring for persons with COVID-19.
  o Provide additional PPE training.
  o Provide meals to all employees to limit items brought into the facility and to limit them exiting the facility.
  o Provide showers and changing areas for the start and end of each shift.
  o Increase housekeeping and laundry to accommodate increased needs in a COVID-19 positive environment.

HHSC ACTIONS

Prevent further disease spread
• Assess if an investigation is required
• Review facility infection control practices
• Determine if staff work at other facilities
**Protect others from infection**
- Review isolation precautions/plans
- Determine if facility has sufficient PPE
- Determine if facility has enacted screening for residents/staff
- Determine if local quarantine order is in effect
- Ensure contact with other facilities where exposed individuals are working

**Care for infected**
- Ensure appropriate isolation and quarantine
- Ensure timely resident care
- Ensure clinical support

**Other**
- Review all relevant rules/regulations with facility
- Track tested, positive, isolated, quarantined, hospitalized, and deaths
- Identify POCs and maintain communication
- Contact DSHS to review response activities
- Perform focused COVID-19 ICAR onsite to tele-visit to provide support and enhance the ALF’s ability to prevent or suppress any COVID-19 cases

**EXTERNAL ACTIONS**

*Texas COVID-19 Assistance Team - ALF*
- Testing
- Patient Movement
- Emergency Management
- LHD
- Resource Requests

*DSHS*
- Assessment
- Initial Response
- Onsite Coordination
- Monitoring
ATTACHMENT 2: SPICE Graphic

**SPICE**
for COVID-19

**Surveillance**
- Sign and Symptoms
- Temperature Checks
- Residents/Staff/Visitors
- Testing

**Protection/Personal Protective Equipment**
- Clinical Staff
- Support Staff
- Patient
- Supply/Burn-rate

**Isolate**
- Patient(s) isolated
- Staff Isolated
- Others Isolated

**Communicate**
- Administrator Contact #:
- Local Health Department #:
- Department of State Health Services #:
- HHSC (TCAT)#:
- Hospital Contact #:

**Evaluate**
- Review 0-24-hour checklist
- Prevent delay of critical actions
- Communication plan
 ATTACHMENT 3: Interim Guidance for Prevention, Management, and Reporting of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities and Other Communal Living Settings

Purpose
This document provides guidance to long-term care facilities (LTCFs) – including nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, long-term acute care hospitals, and other communal living settings such as assisted living, group homes, and other institutions – on the prevention, management, and reporting of COVID-19 outbreaks. Prompt recognition and immediate isolation of suspected cases are critical to prevent outbreaks in residential facilities.

Background
Because of their congregate nature and residents served (older adults often with underlying medical conditions), nursing home and assisted living populations are at the highest risk of serious illness caused by COVID-19. Every effort must be made to prevent the introduction and spread of disease within these facilities. People at high risk for developing severe COVID-19 include those who are 65 or older, immunocompromised (including cancer treatment), or have other high-risk conditions such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, and heart conditions. People of any age with severe obesity or certain underlying medical conditions such as heart or liver disease, particularly if not well controlled, are also at risk.

COVID-19 is most likely to be introduced into a facility by ill HCP or visitors. Implement aggressive visitor restrictions and enforce sick leave policies for ill HCP. Facilities must take the extreme action of restricting visitors except in compassionate care, such as end-of-life situations. Restrict entry of non-essential personnel, and screen essential personnel for fever and symptoms before they enter the facility and begin their shift.

Immediate Prevention Measures
Visitor restriction – On March 13, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a memorandum directing all nursing homes to restrict visitors except those medically necessary. On March 19, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Order No. 3 directing all LTCF, including assisted living facilities, to prohibit all visitors except those medically necessary. This is an important measure to prevent the introduction of the virus that causes COVID-19 into LTCFs. The Texas Department of State Health Services (DHS) recommends all LTCFs restrict visitation except in end-of-life care. End-of-life care is the care given to
people who have stopped treatment for their disease and are near the end of life.

1. For people allowed in the facility (end-of-life situations when death is imminent), provide instruction before visitors enter the facility and residents’ rooms on hand hygiene, limiting surfaces touched, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) according to current facility policy while in the resident’s room. Screen visitors and exclude those with fever and/or symptoms. **Make decisions about visitation during an end-of-life situation on a case-by-case basis.**

2. Visitors who are allowed in the facility must wear a facemask while in the building and be restricted to the resident’s room or other location designated by the facility. **Visitors who are not providing care to residents, such as visitors in end-of-life scenarios, can wear a cloth face cover instead of a facemask if no facemasks are available.**

3. **Communicate** through multiple channels to inform people and non-essential HCP of the visitation restrictions, such as through signage at entrances/exits, letters, emails, phone calls, and recorded messages for receiving calls.

4. In lieu of visits, **consider offering** alternative means of communication for people who would otherwise visit.

5. When visitation is necessary or allowable (end-of-life scenarios), make efforts to allow for safe visitation for residents and loved ones.
   a. Remind visitors to refrain from physical contact with residents and others while in the facility. Practice social distancing by not shaking hands or hugging and remaining at least 6 feet apart.
   b. If possible (pending design of building), create dedicated visiting areas near the entrance to the facility where residents can meet with visitors in a sanitized environment. **Clean and disinfect rooms after each resident-visitor meeting.**

Advise visitors, and any person who entered the facility (hospice staff), to monitor for signs and symptoms of respiratory infection for at least 14 days after exiting the facility. If symptoms occur, advise them to self-isolate at home and immediately notify the facility of the date they were in the facility, the people they were in contact with, and the locations within the facility they visited. **Immediately** screen the people of reported contact and take all necessary actions based on findings.

**Restrict non-essential personnel** – Review and revise how the facility interacts with vendors and delivery personnel, agency staff, EMS personnel and equipment, transportation providers (when taking residents to offsite appointments, etc.), and other non-health care providers (food delivery,
etc.), including taking necessary actions to prevent any potential transmission. For example, do not have vendors bring supplies inside the facility. Instead, have vendors drop off supplies at a dedicated location, such as a loading dock.

Restrict non-essential personnel including volunteers and non-essential consultant personnel (barbers, delivery personnel) from entering the building.

Essential services such as dialysis, interdisciplinary hospice care, organ procurement, or home health personnel are still permitted to enter the facility provided they are wearing all appropriate PPE and undergo the same fever and symptom screening process as facility staff. Facilities can allow entry of these essential visitors after screening.

Do not restrict surveyors. CMS and state survey agencies are constantly evaluating their surveyors to ensure they don’t pose a transmission risk when entering a facility. For example, surveyors might have been in a facility with COVID-19 cases in the previous 14 days, but because they were wearing PPE effectively per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, they pose a low risk to transmission in the next facility and must be allowed to enter. However, there are circumstances under which surveyors should not enter, such as if they have a fever or any additional signs or symptoms of illness.

Active screening – CDC and CMS recommend LTCFs screen all staff entering the facility at the beginning of their shift for fever and symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Actively take their temperature and document absence of or shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat. If they are ill, have them put on a facemask and self-isolate at home.

DSHS has created a template screening log for facility staff that is available on the DSHS website at https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/. Screen any visitors who are permitted to enter the building, including visiting health care providers. Maintain a log of all visitors who enter the building that at minimum includes name, current contact information, and fever and presence/absence of symptoms.

Education – Share the latest information about COVID-19 and review CDC guidance:

- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings
• **Interim Additional Guidance for Infection Prevention and Control for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Nursing Homes**

Educate residents and families about COVID-19 actions the facility is taking to protect them and their loved ones (including visitor restrictions), as well as actions residents can take to protect themselves in the facility.

Educate and train staff and reinforce sick leave policies and adherence to infection prevention and control measures, including hand hygiene and selection and use of PPE. Have staff demonstrate competency with putting on and removing PPE. Remind staff not to report to work when ill. Educate facility-based and consultant personnel (wound care, podiatry, barber) and volunteers. Including consultants is important because they often provide care in multiple facilities and can be exposed to or serve as a source of pathogen transmission.

Coordinate with your long-term care ombudsman to assist with education to residents and family members. To request help from an ombudsman statewide, call 1-800-252-2412 or email ltc.ombudsman@hhsc.state.tx.us.

**Provide Supplies for Recommended Infection Prevention and Control Practices**

• Hand hygiene supplies:
  o Put alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95 percent alcohol in every resident room, if appropriate (ideally inside and outside of the room) and other resident care and common areas (outside dining hall, in therapy gym).
  o Make sure sinks are well-stocked with soap and paper towels for handwashing.

• Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette:
  o Make tissues and facemasks available for people who are coughing.
  o Consider designating staff to steward those supplies and encourage appropriate use by residents, visitors and staff.

• Make necessary PPE available in areas where resident care is provided. Put a trash can near the exit inside the resident room to make it easy for staff to discard PPE prior to exiting the room or before providing care for another resident in the same room. Facilities should have supplies of:
  o Facemasks
o Respirators (if available and the facility has a respiratory protection program with trained, medically cleared, and fit-tested HCP)
o Gowns
o Gloves
o Eye protection (face shield or goggles).

- Consider implementing a respiratory protection program compliant with the OSHA standard for employees if not already in place. A respiratory protection program includes medical evaluations, training, and fit testing.

- Environmental cleaning and disinfection:
  o Make sure EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectants are available to allow for frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces and shared resident care equipment.
  o Refer to List N on the EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA’s emerging viral pathogens program for use against SARS-CoV-2.

Control Measures for Residents

Most of the actions that can be taken to prevent or control COVID-19 outbreaks in LTCFs are not new and include increasing hand hygiene compliance among staff, residents, and their families through education and on-the-spot coaching, as well as providing facemasks and hand hygiene supplies at the facility entrance. Additional critical control measures are listed below:

**Monitoring** - Ask residents to report if they feel feverish or have symptoms of respiratory infection. Actively monitor all residents upon admission and at least daily for fever and respiratory symptoms (including shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat). If the resident has fever or other symptoms, implement recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) measures.

**Isolation** - Once a case of COVID-19 is identified in the facility, immediate action must be taken to isolate the resident who is positive for COVID-19 away from other residents.

Symptoms of COVID-19 can vary in severity. Initially, symptoms can be mild and not require transfer to a hospital if the facility can follow the infection prevention and control practices recommended by the CDC. Residents with known or suspected COVID-19 do not need to be placed into an airborne
infection isolation room. **Accommodate a resident in a private room when their own bathroom when possible.**

If a resident requires a higher level of care or the facility cannot fully implement all recommended precautions, **transfer the resident** to another facility capable of implementation. **Notify the** transport personnel and the receiving facility about the suspected diagnosis prior to transfer. While awaiting transfer, **have residents who are symptomatic wear a facemask (if tolerated) and be separated from others (kept in their room with the door closed).** **HCP will use** appropriate PPE when encountering the resident.

**Move and monitor any roommates** for fever and symptoms twice daily for 14 days. Room-sharing might be necessary if multiple residents have known or suspected COVID-19. As roommates of symptomatic residents might already be exposed, it is generally not recommended to separate them in this scenario. Public health authorities can assist with decisions about resident placement.

Create a plan for resident cohorts with symptoms of respiratory infection, including dedicating HCP to work only on affected units.

If the resident is transferred to a higher level of care, perform a final, full clean of the room and use an EPA-registered disinfectant that has qualified under its emerging viral pathogens program for use against COVID-19. These products can be found on EPA’s List N [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2).

**Source control** – **Have residents who are ill** wear a surgical mask when health care or other essential personnel enter the room. If the resident cannot tolerate a surgical mask, personnel who enter the room must wear N95 respirators, if available and staff are fit-tested. Ensure staff have been appropriately trained and fit-tested before using N95 respirators. If they are not available or staff are not trained or fit-tested, **have staff wear a facemask.** Respiratory protection is worn in addition to gown, gloves, and face shield.

**Have all residents who are not ill** wear a cloth face covering for source control whenever they leave their room or are around others, including whenever they leave the facility for essential medical appointments.

**Have all residents who are ill** wear a facemask at all times (as tolerated) except for when they are eating or drinking, taking medications, or performing personal hygiene like bathing or oral care.
If COVID-19 is identified in the facility, restrict all residents to their rooms and have HCP wear all recommended PPE for care of all residents (regardless of symptoms) on the affected unit (or facility-wide, depending on the situation). This includes: an N95 or higher-level respirator (or facemask if a respirator is not available), eye protection, gloves, and gown. Train HCP on proper PPE use, including putting it on and taking it off.

Social distancing - Remind residents to practice social distancing and perform frequent hand hygiene. Social distancing means avoiding unnecessary physical contact and keeping a distance of at least 6 feet from other people. Cancel communal dining and all group activities, both internal and external.

Resident education - Educate residents and any essential visitors regarding the importance of handwashing. Help residents perform hand hygiene if they are unable to do so themselves. Educate residents to cover their coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away in the trash and wash their hands.

Recovery – Work with your LHD or DSHS to establish a resident recovery plan, including when a resident is considered recovered and next steps for care. A recovery plan is the guidance for determining when to discontinue transmission-based precautions and continued care of a resident. The recovery plan may be different depending on whether a test-based or non-test-based strategy is used. Criteria includes:

- Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions without testing.
- Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions with testing.
- Whether using a testing-based strategy for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions is preferred.

Control Measures for Staff

Hand hygiene - Reinforce the importance of hand hygiene among all facility staff, including any contract staff. Facilities can increase the frequency of hand hygiene audits and implement short in-service sessions on the proper technique.

Ensure that supplies for performing hand hygiene are readily available and easily accessible by staff. Advise staff not to keep hand sanitizer bottles in their pockets. This practice causes hands and sanitizer bottles to become contaminated. Instead, consider keeping alcohol-based hand rub bottles in easily accessible areas, as well as mounted to the sides of carts (dining tray carts, wound care carts, medication carts, etc.)
Personal protective equipment (PPE) - Ensure the facility maintains an adequate supply of PPE and that all required PPE is easily accessible to staff entering resident rooms. For COVID-19 patients, CDC recommends staff adhere to standard and transmission-based precautions. If the facility does not have a supply of N95 respirators, or does not have any fit-tested staff, facemasks must be worn.

Follow the CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with COVID-19 or Persons Under Investigation for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings, which includes detailed information regarding recommended PPE.

Consider designating staff to steward these supplies and encourage appropriate use by staff and residents.

Dedicated staff/COVID-19 response teams - Facilities can consider establishing COVID-19 care teams to dedicate to the care of positive cases. Fit-test these teams for N95 respirators and prepared to provide an advanced level of care for cases if necessary, or until cases can be transferred to a higher level of care. COVID-19 care teams can be implemented if not all staff can be trained and fit-tested for N95 respirators, or if supplies of N95 respirators are insufficient to equip the entire staff.

Restrict staff movement between facilities – Facilities will restrict the movement of staff between facilities to the extent possible.

Sick leave – Review and potentially revise sick leave policies. Have staff who are ill stay home and not come to work. Sick leave policies that do not penalize staff with loss of status, wages, or benefits will encourage staff who are ill to stay home.

Work exclusion – Staff who are confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 must stay at home. See below for guidance on when they may return to work.

Staff return to work - After being diagnosed with COVID-19, an employee can return to work per DSHS guidance.

Use the test-based strategy as the preferred method for determining when staff can return to work in a healthcare setting:

Test-based strategy – exclude from work until:
  • Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
• Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
• Negative results of an FDA emergency use authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

If the test-based strategy cannot be used, the non-test-based strategy can be used to determine when staff may return to work in healthcare settings. Exclude from work until:
• At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
• Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
• At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

For asymptomatic HCP and staff with confirmed COVID-19:

HCP laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms should be excluded from work until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. After the 10 days, these asymptomatic HCP will still need to be cleared using the test-based strategy (preferred) or the non-test-based strategy.

After returning to work, HCP should:
• Wear a facemask for source control at all times while in the facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or until 14 days after illness onset, whichever is longer. A facemask instead of a cloth face covering should be used by these HCP for source control during this time period while in the facility. After this time period, these HCP should revert to their facility policy regarding universal source control during the pandemic.
• A facemask for source control does not replace the need to wear an N95 or higher-level respirator (or other recommended PPE) when indicated, including when caring for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
• Of note, N95 or other respirators with an exhaust valve might not provide source control.
• Both the provider and the employee must take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of everyone in the facility, including adhering to all infection control procedures such as hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
• Be restricted from contact with severely immunocompromised patients (e.g., transplant, hematology-oncology) until 14 days after illness onset.
• Self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if respiratory symptoms recur or worsen.

Note: If the employee was diagnosed with a different illness (e.g., influenza) and was never tested for COVID-19, base their return to work on the criteria associated with that diagnosis.

**Environmental cleaning and disinfection** – Increase environmental cleaning. Clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs/handles, elevator buttons, bathroom surfaces/fixtures, remote controls, and wheelchairs. Limit the sharing of personal items and equipment between residents. Provide additional work supplies to avoid sharing (pens, pads) and disinfect workplace areas (nurse’s stations, phones, internal radios, etc.)

Make sure EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectants are available to allow for frequent disinfection of high-touch surfaces and shared resident care equipment. Properly clean, disinfect and limit sharing of medical equipment between residents and areas of the facility. Refer to List N on the EPA website for EPA-registered disinfectants that have qualified under EPA’s emerging viral pathogens program for use against COVID-19. [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2).

**Reporting COVID-19**

All confirmed cases of COVID-19 must be reported to the local health department (LHD), or public health region (PHR) in jurisdictions where the PHR serves as the LHD. In addition, a confirmed COVID-19 case must also be reported to HHSC. If you suspect your facility is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19, immediately notify your local health authority by phone.

You can find contact information for your local/regional health department here: [https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/2019-nCoV-Local-Health-Entities/). Work with your LHD to complete the COVID-19 case report form as necessary.

Facilities are also required to notify HHSC Long-term Care Regulatory of any confirmed cases in either residents or HCP/staff. Submit an incident report to HHSC Complaint and Incident Intake through TULIP or by calling 1-800-458-9858.
Outbreak Management

If an outbreak of COVID-19 is suspected or identified in your facility, strict measures must be put in place to halt disease transmission.

**Outbreak definitions** – A confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 is defined as one or more laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 identified in either a resident or paid/unpaid staff. All confirmed outbreaks will be reported to the LHD or PHR immediately, as well as to HHSC.

A suspected outbreak is defined as one or more cases of respiratory illness within a one-week period without a positive test for COVID-19. Use the suspected outbreak definition if your facility is awaiting test results from either a resident or paid/unpaid staff. You can reach out to your local health authority for assistance but are not required to report suspected outbreaks. If you suspect a resident or staff member might have COVID-19, do not wait for test results to implement outbreak control measures.

If you have two or more residents or staff with similar symptoms, report to your local health authority as you would for any other cluster of illness. Maintain a low threshold of suspicion for COVID-19, as early symptoms can be non-specific and include atypical presentations such as diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting, among others.

Implement universal use of facemask for HCP while inside the facility. Follow the CDC’s guidance for optimizing the supply of PPE when deciding how long staff must wear one facemask (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html). Discard mask upon exit and wear a new mask upon reentry.

**Only use homemade facemasks or cloth face coverings** when all other options have been exhausted and then only use them for source control. These masks are not considered protective.

Consider having HCP wear all recommended PPE for COVID-19 (gown, gloves, eye protection, a facemask or N95 respirator) for the care of all residents, regardless of presence of symptoms. Implement protocols for extended use of eye protection and facemasks. Refer to DSHS’ website for strategies for optimizing the supply of PPE.

Restrict residents (to the extent possible) to their rooms except for medically necessary purposes. If they leave their room, **have resident wear a facemask (as tolerated)**, perform hand hygiene, limit their movement in the facility, and keep a distance of 6 feet between themselves and other residents.
Implement protocols to cohort positive COVID-19 cases with dedicated HCP. Train and fit-test the HCP for N95 masks if possible. If staff cannot be fit-tested for N95 respirators, do not have them serve as dedicated staff for COVID-19 cases. Consider designating entire units within the facility, with dedicated HCP, to care for known or suspected COVID-19 cases.


Maintain a line list of all confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases within your facility. Include details such as name, date of birth, age, sex, whether staff or resident, room number or job description, date of symptom onset, fever, symptoms, and others. If your facility does not already have a line list template, you can find one on the DSHS website at https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/.
ATTACHMENT 4: Monitoring Log

Click HERE to download the COVID-19 Symptom Monitoring Log Document

*This is an optional tool to help monitor symptoms of HCP/staff, the use of this tool is not required.

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**Long-Term Care Facilities**

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Symptom Monitoring Log**

**Instructions:** Screen all healthcare personnel (HCP) at the beginning of their shift for fever and respiratory symptoms. Actively take their temperature and document absence of shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat. Mark the symptoms below with 'Y' for Yes and 'N' for No. Don’t leave any spaces blank. If any HCP are ill, have them put on a facemask and leave the workplace. As part of a routine practice, ask HCP to regularly monitor themselves for fever and symptoms of respiratory infection.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Signs and Symptoms (Y/N)</th>
<th>Exposure to facilities with confirmed COVID-19 cases (Y/N)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>°F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ATTACHMENT 5: Tracking Line List**

Click [HERE](#) to download the Tracking Line List Document

**This is an optional tool to help track symptoms of residents and HCP/staff, the use of this exact tool is not required.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Facility:</th>
<th>Administrator / POC:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Case Status</strong></td>
<td><strong>Case Initials or other ID</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff or Resident</strong></td>
<td><strong>Unit/Room (or assigned area if staff)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Onset date</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cough</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sore throat</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fever</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shortness of breath</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pneumonia</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patient date of admission</strong></td>
<td><strong>Date Symptoms resolved</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration of illness</strong></td>
<td><strong>Other respiratory illness testing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other testing result</strong></td>
<td><strong>Treatment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospitalized</strong></td>
<td><strong>Flu Vaccine for Current Season</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Definitions

**Case Definition**

**Description**

**Confirmed (C):**

confirmed case meets COVID-19 definition AND has a positive COVID-19 test (includes rapid test)

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**Covid-19 Definition**

An illness usually characterized by a fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath. Other symptoms might include muscle aches, fatigue, sore throat, headache, runny nose, chills, abdominal pain/discomfort, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. If COVID-19 test results are pending and the resident’s symptoms are consistent with COVID-19 or the resident has a relevant epidemiological link, assume the resident is positive and isolate them accordingly.
ATTACHMENT 6: Comprehensive Mitigation Plan

Comprehensive Mitigation Plan – ALF Without COVID-19 Positive Cases

1. Keep COVID-19 from entering your facility:
   • Restrict all visitors except for end-of-life visitation
   • Restrict all volunteers and non-essential HCP, including consultant services (e.g., barber, hairdresser)
   • Implement universal use of source control for everyone in the facility.
   • Actively screen anyone entering the building
   • Cancel all group activities

2. Identify infections early:
   • Actively screen all residents daily for fever and symptoms of COVID-19
   • If symptomatic, immediately isolate and implement appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions
     o Older adults with COVID-19 may not show typical symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms.
     o Atypical symptoms may include new or worsening malaise, new dizziness, or diarrhea. Identification of these symptoms should prompt isolation and further evaluation for COVID-19
   • Notify LHD or DSHS immediately (<24 hours) if these occur:
     o Severe respiratory infection causing hospitalization or sudden death
     o Clusters (≥3 residents and/or HCP) of respiratory infection
     o Individuals with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

3. Prevent spread of COVID-19
   • Actions to take now:
     o Cancel all group activities and communal dining
     o Enforce social distancing among residents
     o Ensure all residents wear a cloth face covering for source control whenever they leave their room or are around others, including whenever they leave the facility for essential medical appointments
     o Ensure all HCP wear a facemask while in the facility

4. Assess supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and initiate measures to optimize current supply:
   • If you anticipate or are experiencing PPE shortages, reach out to the LHD or DSHS.
   • Consider extended use of respirators, facemasks, and eye protection or prioritization of gowns for certain resident care activities.
5. Identify and manage severe illness.

Comprehensive Mitigation Plan - ALF with COVID-19 Positive Cases

Determine exactly what level of infection exists at the ALF and implement a comprehensive mitigation plan. Work with LHD or DSHS to ensure that test kits are available, and that testing is conducted quickly and efficiently. After the first positive test of an ALF staff member or resident, test all residents and staff of the facility for COVID-19. ALFs with current positive cases and that have not done comprehensive testing must conduct an assessment of their current infection levels. Test all ALF staff and residents who were either not previously tested or were tested previously but are now exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Design and implement a comprehensive mitigation plan. The mitigation plan must address the specific level of infection that is discovered in the ALF and include specific actions to accomplish the following:

- Isolate residents who are COVID-19 positive in the most effective manner available. Consider a transfer to a different facility (possibly a COVID-positive dedicated facility) or move them to a COVID isolation wing of the facility.
- Limit transport and movement of residents who are COVID-19 positive to isolation or medically essential purposes only.
- Move residents who are not COVID-19 positive to areas within the ALF designated for their care.
- Staff who are confirmed to have COVID-19 must stay at home and may only return to work in accordance with the DSHS guidance.
- Require facility staff to only work in one facility at a time.
- Take immediate measures to inform all who interact (or may have recently interacted) with the ALF of the positive result(s) so that further limitations can be enacted to control the spread of infection to family or other service providers. Follow CDC, CMS and DSHS guidance, and this ALF COVID-19 Response Plan.
- Implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection techniques.
- Limit all unnecessary visitation.
- To assist in controlling infection, limit access to the facility to designated entrances only.
- Implement enhanced screening techniques.

ATTACHMENT 7: ALF Infection Control Checklist for COVID-19

**Entering the Facility**
### Prior to entering the facility:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is signage posted at facility entrances with visitation restrictions and screening procedures?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there multiple entrances and exits in use, or has the facility limited access points of entry?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are signs posted at entrances with instructions to individuals to cover their mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, use and dispose of tissues, and perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and soiled surfaces?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there instructions posted to notify staff of any symptoms of respiratory infection to allow for assessment and use of PPE as applicable?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did staff follow procedures to process surveyor screening prior to entry?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Triage/Registration/Visitor Handling

*After screening and upon entry to the facility, ask if the facility has any residents who have a laboratory-tested positive case of COVID-19.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are staff trained on appropriate processes (e.g., questions to ask and actions to take) to rapidly identify and isolate suspected COVID-19 cases?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a process that occurs after a suspected case is identified to include immediate notification of facility leadership for infection control?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the facility’s current visitor policy in response to COVID-19?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Is the facility restricting visitors to the following situations?

- Essential services
- Individuals with legal authority to enter
- Family members and loved ones at end of life (actively dying)

Yes | No | N/A
---|---|---
☐ | ☐ | ☐
☐ | ☐ | ☐
☐ | ☐ | ☐

What is the facility’s infection control procedures for allowing family visits for end of life when the resident is dying of COVID-19 complications?

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Resident Observations and Interviews**

*Observe and interview every resident.*

What information has the facility given to residents regarding:

- Hand hygiene
- Reporting symptoms of respiratory illness
- Leaving the facility
- Limitations on visitors

Click or tap here to enter text.
**Hand Hygiene**

*Interview appropriate staff to determine if hand hygiene supplies (e.g., hand sanitizer, soap, paper towels, garbage bags for disposal, bleach wipes) are readily available and who they contact for replacement supplies.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are staff performing hand hygiene when indicated?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If alcohol-based hand sanitizer is available, is it readily accessible and preferentially used by staff for hand hygiene?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If there are shortages of hand sanitizer, are staff performing hand hygiene using soap and water?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are staff washing hands with soap and water when their hands are visibly soiled (e.g., blood, body fluids, between working with residents)?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do staff perform hand hygiene (even if gloves are used) in the following situations:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Before and after contact with the resident?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o After contact with blood, body fluids, or visibly contaminated surfaces?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o After contact with objects and surfaces in the resident’s environment and common areas?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>o After removing personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, gown, facemask) and before performing a procedure such as a sterile task (e.g., wound dressing care, feeding tube maintenance)?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>o When being assisted by staff, is resident hand hygiene performed after toileting and before meals?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the facility’s status on available PPE?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If the facility is experiencing shortages, what methods are they using to conserve available supplies?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are residents wearing masks (Homemade or Commercially produced)?</td>
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<td>Click or tap here to enter text.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are they being used properly?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are staff using masks?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If the facility is using handmade masks, are they fitted properly?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have staff actually been fit tested, if applicable to the type of mask?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are staff wearing gloves?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are gloves worn if potential contact with blood or body fluid, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Are gloves removed after contact with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are gloves changed and hand hygiene is performed before moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site during resident care?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Are staff using isolation gowns? ☐ ☐ ☐
Are staff using goggles? ☐ ☐ ☐
Are staff using face shields? ☐ ☐ ☐
In what situations are each being used? Interview staff to determine their understanding of the use and conservation of PPE.

Evaluate how the facility staff donns and doffs PPE? ☐ ☐ ☐
If PPE use is extended/reused, is it done according to national, state, and local guidelines? ☐ ☐ ☐
If the facility is using reusable PPE, how is it sanitized, decontaminated, and maintained between uses? ☐ ☐ ☐

PPE Usage and Treatment of COVID-19 Positive or Suspected Residents
Do staff wear gloves, isolation gown, eye protection, and an N95 or higher-level respirator if available? A facemask is an acceptable alternative if a respirator is not available. Additionally, if there are COVID-19 cases in the facility or sustained community transmission, staff implement universal use of facemasks while in the facility (based on availability). When COVID-19 is identified in the facility, staff wear all recommended PPE (i.e., gloves, gown, eye protection and respirator or facemask) for the care of all residents on the unit (or facility-wide based on the location of affected residents), regardless of symptoms (based on availability).

Interview appropriate staff to determine if PPE is available, accessible and used by staff.

Is there appropriate signage to indicate precautions for isolation of the affected resident? ☐ ☐ ☐
Is an isolation gown worn for direct resident contact if the resident has uncontained secretions or excretions? ☐ ☐ ☐
Is PPE appropriately removed and discarded after resident care, prior to leaving room, followed by hand hygiene? ☐ ☐ ☐

Education, Monitoring, and Screening of Staff
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Is there evidence the facility staff has been educated on COVID-19 (e.g., symptoms, how it is transmitted, screening criteria, work exclusions)?</strong></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>How has the provider conveyed updates on COVID-19 to all staff?</strong></th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Do all staff have access to the facility administrator?</strong></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Do staff have or have access to contact information for the Local Health Department, HHSC, Department of State Health Services, and local hospital for emergencies and medical guidance?</strong></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Shift Change**

*The facility may use a log to document staff and resident screening. The screening documentation must at a minimum include the following: Name, date, temperature and time taken, signs and symptoms (shortness of breath, new or change in cough, sore throat), exposure to a facility with confirmed COVID-19 cases.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Is the facility screening all staff at the beginning of their shift for fever and signs/symptoms of illness?</strong></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Is the facility actively taking their temperature and documenting absence of illness (or signs/symptoms of COVID-19 as more information becomes available)?</strong></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Where and how is the screening documented?</strong></th>
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</tbody>
</table>
If a resident has a temperature above normal ranges, but below the CDC-recommended COVID-19 criterion, how is this communicated during shift change to facilitate monitoring of possible symptoms?

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Staff Monitoring**

If staff develop symptoms at work, does the facility:

- Have a process for staff to report their illness or developing symptoms?
- Ensure they have a facemask and have them return home for appropriate medical evaluation?
- Inform the facility’s administrator include information on individuals, equipment, and locations the person came in contact with?
- Follow current guidance about returning to work (e.g., local health department, CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/hcp-return-work.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/hcp-return-work.html))?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Resident Service Plans**

*Review resident care plans and information for current resident health conditions.*

Did the facility conduct a review of all resident care plans to establish a baseline for health conditions and symptoms of illness?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
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</table>

What actions were taken to update plans if necessary and to inform residents about changes in facility policy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
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</table>
**Medication Administration**

Review the medication list and medication administration record for each resident.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If medications were changed recently or in response to COVID-19 policy implementation, were the residents aware of changes?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Were legally authorized representatives informed?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were doctor’s instructions followed for medication administration and transportation for testing relating to drug regimen?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are resident assessments appropriate?</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Hydroxychloroquine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are there residents in the facility taking a Hydroxychloroquine regimen prescribed in response to a COVID-19 diagnosis?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If so, are the residents being monitored for signs and symptoms of toxicity?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is monitoring signs and symptoms for those residents?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have any residents taking the drug showed signs of improvement as:</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>o reported by the physician or</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>o observed by staff?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have any residents died while taking hydroxychloroquine?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Meal Preparation and Service, Activities**
### Has the facility cancelled group outings, group activities, and communal dining to affect social distancing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

### Where are meals taken?

Click or tap here to enter text.

### For meals taken in the dining room or common areas, has the facility allowed for social distancing during mealtime and for residents who require assistance with feeding?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

### Is the facility practicing social distancing for activities when they are appropriate during the response to COVID-19?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

## Housekeeping

*Interview housekeeping staff.*

### What additional cleaning and disinfection procedures are in place to mitigate spread of illness?

Click or tap here to enter text.

### Does the facility have adequate housekeeping staff to clean and disinfect resident rooms and common areas as frequently as necessary to ensure appropriate infection control?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Does the facility have an adequate supply of housekeeping equipment and supplies?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

### Does housekeeping staff know who to contact if supplies on hand are getting low?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

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**Emergency Preparedness – Staffing Levels in Emergencies**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the facility have a policy and procedures for ensuring staffing to meet the needs of the residents when needed during an emergency, such as the COVID-19 outbreak?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the facility have adequate staffing to care for residents based on current census and resident needs?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does staff know how to report inadequate staffing needs to the administrator?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In an emergency, did the facility implement its planned strategy for ensuring staffing to meet the needs of the patient? (N/A if emergency staff was not needed)</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reporting and Response after a Positive COVID-19 Case**

Determine the following for each onsite visit positive COVID case reported or discovered onsite.

Review facility isolation precautions and determine how residents are isolated in the facility (dedicated wing, private room) to ensure compliance with requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If the facility has known positive cases of COVID-19, were they appropriately reported to HHSC (cases after April 1, 2020) and to local health authorities, local health department, and DSHS?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the number of residents positive for COVID-19?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the number of staff positive for COVID-19?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Determines if others (contract staff, family members, vendors) are also being tested.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>NA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is there a local control or quarantine order?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the facility aware of the order?</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the control or quarantine orders being followed as appropriate?</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where the staff work for multiple facilities and or agencies, did the facility track such employment?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>If a staff member tested positive for COVID-19 did the facility contact other facilities where the employee currently working?</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>After a positive COVID-19 case has been identified in the facility, what are facility procedures for admission and discharge?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional office staff must perform a call-down to all other facilities in the county when staff at one facility tested positive for COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Determine whether staff, residents, and families are notified of positive COVID-19 cases in the facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>How is the facility tracking hospitalization of COVID-19-positive ALF residents?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How is the facility tracking deaths of COVID-19-positive ALF residents?</td>
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<tr>
<td>How is the facility tracking quarantine periods for COVID-19-positive residents and staff?</td>
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</table>
Glossary of Acronyms in Alphabetic Order

1. ABHR – Alcohol-based hand rub
2. AIIR – Airborne infection isolation room
3. ALF – Assisted living facility
4. CDC – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
5. CMS – The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
6. CNA – Certified nursing aide
7. DSHS – Texas Department of State Health Services
8. EMS – Emergency medical services
9. EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
10. HA – Health authority
11. HCP – Healthcare personnel
12. HHSC – Texas Health and Human Service Commission
13. ICAR – Infection control assessment and response tool
14. IPC – Infection prevention and control
15. LHA – Local health authority
16. LHD – Local health department
17. LTC – Long-term care
18. LTCF – Long-term care facility
19. LTCR – Long-term Care Regulatory
20. LVN – Licensed vocational nurse
21. OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration
22. POC – Point of contact
23. PPE – Personal protective equipment
24. RN – Registered nurse
25. SME – Subject matter expert

26. TCAT – Texas Covid-19 Assistance Team