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Welcome ICF Providers!

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

December 14, 2020

For more information:

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

Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us

Phone: 512-438-3161

COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

Susie Weirether
IDD Policy and Rule Manager
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulatory



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Reminder

Sign-up for GovDelivery to sign-up for Alerts:

Go to:

**[https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXH
HSC/subscriber/new](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXH/HSC/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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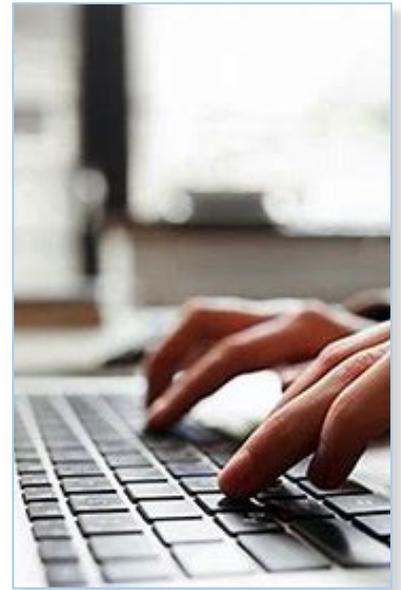
Resources



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

- [Expanded Reopening Visitation Rules](#)
 - Under "COVID-19 Resources"
- [Provider Letter 20-43](#)
- [Provider Letter 20-53](#)
 - Click on "Provider Communications"
- [Visitation FAQ](#)
 - Under "COVID-19 Resources"





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Flu & COVID-19 Webinar

HHSC is hosting a webinar focused on the similarities and differences between COVID-19 & flu, including guidance related to flu vaccine administration.

- Dec. 21, 2020; 1 – 2 p.m.
[Register for the COVID-19 webinar.](#)
- Dec. 22, 2020; 11 a.m. – noon
[Register for the COVID-19 webinar.](#)

HHSC Essential Caregiver Training



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HHSC published a [Infection Control Basics & Personal Protective Equipment for Essential Caregivers](#) document.

This document provides a training resource for providers.

It can be used to meet the training requirements for essential caregivers under the [Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rule](#).

You can find this document on the [ICF Provider Portal](#), in the "COVID-19 Resources" Section.

Updated Quarantine Guidance



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The CDC has updated guidance related to quarantine protocol.

This guidance applies to individuals who have an unknown COVID-19 status, including an individual who:

- is a new admission or readmission
- has spent one or more nights away from the facility
- has had known exposure or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive

This guidance does **NOT** apply to COVID-19 positive individuals or individuals displaying signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

(Continued on next slide)

Updated Quarantine Guidance



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The CDC still endorses the 14-day quarantine period, but has also provided [alternate options](#):

- 10-day quarantine, without testing if the person has no symptoms as determined by daily monitoring; and
- 7-day quarantine, if the person tests negative and has no symptoms as determined by daily monitoring. The test must occur on Day 5 or later. Quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

(Continued on next slide)

Updated Quarantine Guidance



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ICF must work with their local health departments (or DSHS region if there is no local health department) to determine which quarantine options may be used with individuals.

Local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs, and such decisions should be followed. ICF's can only choose to follow the shortened quarantined options in the absence of stricter local quarantine requirements.

See CDC's [When to Quarantine](#) for more information.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Programs

Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program

- CDC (federal) Program
- Connects LTC facilities with pharmacies
- Pharmacies provide end-to-end management of the COVID-19 process

Enrollment period is closed

See [CDC's Webpage](#) for more information

COVID-19 Provider Program

- DSHS (state) Program
- Facilities are responsible for administration and management of COVID-19 vaccine

Enrollment is still open

See [DSHS webpage](#) for more information

COVID-19 Vaccine Pharmacy Program

For facilities currently enrolled in the Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program, see the following resources:

[CDC's Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program webpage](#)

[CDC Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program FAQs](#)

For questions about the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program, please contact eocevent494@cdc.gov.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Program

Facilities may still enroll to become a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider through the DSHS' COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Program.

Facilities enrolled in the COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Program must adhere to all storage, management, and reporting requirements.

To review all provider requirements and for more information, see the [Provider Vaccine Information](#) page on the DSHS Immunizations website.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Program

DSHS has also provided COVID-19 Vaccine resources for providers and health care professionals.

Resources can be found at:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx>

For questions over provider enrollment please contact DSHS at:

COVID-19 Registration Support

- COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov
- Toll-Free: (877) 835-7750



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COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

The COVID-19 vaccine cannot be mandated through state or federal rules since the vaccine is approved through the FDA's [emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#).

Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary.

Nothing in HHSC rules prohibit an ICF from making a COVID-19 vaccination a condition of employment. However, any facility that wishes to include a requirement for staff to be vaccinated for COVID-19 should consult their legal counsel and human resource professionals.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Angel H. Angco-Barrera, MBA, BSN, RN
Director of Public Health Nursing
Division of Regional and Local Health
Operations
DSHS



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Links Discussed:

- [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine](#) (Vaccination Providers) – Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to Prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- [Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#) – Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to Prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Individuals 16 years of age and older
- CDC webinar: [What Clinicians Need to Know About the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (December 13, 2020) (includes information regarding vaccine safety/timing, contraindications, etc.)
- Main page for Pfizer [Fact sheets and vaccine-specific information](#)



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Renee Blanch-Haley, BSN, RN
Director of Survey Operations
Survey Operations
LTCR



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COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

Mary Valente, MPAff, LBSW, SMQT, CMDCP
Policy Development Support Office
1915(b) Waivers Support
ICF Medicaid Policy Specialist
1915(c) Waivers Special Projects



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Mini- Training

Panelist

Melodee Duesing
ICF Training Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulatory



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COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

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



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COVID Q&A

Question:

Are the surveyors expecting to see family style meals? Example- Passing the bowls around and touching the same serving spoon. If so how should that be done?

Answer (from Survey Ops):

There is no specific expectation. The surveyors will be looking to see that residents maintain physical distancing and all infection control measures are followed.



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COVID Q&A

Question:

If our local health district recommends us to quarantine all individuals after overnight visits, despite CDC new recommendations, should we follow the local health recommendation or the new CDC guidance? And should we share this info to our local Reg team?

Answer:

If a local health department recommendation is more restrictive than the HHSC or CDC, facilities should follow that guideline, as per [26 TAC Ch. 551.46\(n\)](#). Additionally, Survey Ops has said yes, they should share that information with the local regional team if they are onsite to conduct a visit.



COVID Q&A

Question:

Our day program is held in one of our facilities. It is our understanding that since it's in a facility we cannot hold it now.

Answer:

If your day program is held in one of your facilities, you would not be able to hold programming for individuals who do not live in the residence.



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COVID Q&A

Question:

Do we have to limit the number of residents in the van at one time?

Answer:

The provider may transport individuals but must still follow CDC guidelines and should maintain physical distancing between the individuals. Bear in mind, the guidance still includes reminding individuals to practice physical distancing and to perform frequent hand hygiene. such.



COVID Q&A

(continued from previous slide)

Physical distancing means avoiding unnecessary physical contact and keeping a distance of at least 6 feet from other people.

Additionally, all individuals who are not ill should 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.

All individuals who are ill should 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 and should be cohorted as such.



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Questions?

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