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Welcome ICF Providers!

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

December 28, 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 receive alerts

Go to:

<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHSC/subscriber/new>

- **Enter your email address.**
- **Confirm your email address, select your delivery preference, and submit a password if you want one.**
- **Select your topics.**
- **When done click “Submit.”**



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Resources



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

- Under “COVID-19 Resources”
 - [Infection Control Basics & Personal Protective Equipment for Essential Caregivers](#)
 - [Expanded Reopening Visitation Rules](#)
 - [COVID FAQ](#)
 - [ICF COVID Response Plan](#)
- Click on “Provider Communications”
 - [Provider Letter 20-43: Expansion of Reopening Visitation](#)
 - [Provider Letter 20-53: Guidance for Activities, Dining, and Volunteers](#)





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Flu & COVID: What You Need to Know Webinar

In this webinar, we will review:

- The similarities and the differences between flu and COVID-19
- The importance of getting a flu shot
- How flu vaccination along with good infection control practices protect everyone
- CDC guidance on administering flu vaccines this season amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Jan. 5, 2021: 10 – 11 a.m.

[Register for the Jan. 5 COVID-19 webinar](#)

Jan. 21, 2021: 10 – 11 a.m.

[Register for the Jan. 21 COVID-19 webinar](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar



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DSHS Issues Guidance About Moderna Vaccination Readiness for Vaccine Administrators.

To view the recorded webinars, register via the links below.

Sunday - Dec. 20, 2020

[Presentation slides](#)

[Recording Link](#)

Monday - Dec. 21, 2020

[Presentation slides](#)

[Recording Link](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar



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[Moderna EUA Storage and Handling Instructions](#) includes the following:

- Moderna EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers)
- Moderna EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers

[v-safe After Vaccination Health Checker Instructions](#)

[Moderna EUA "What to Expect" Card for Healthcare Professionals](#)

[Moderna EUA "What to Expect" Card for Vaccine Recipients](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar



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CDC's Moderna Clinical Website is now live and includes the following documents:

- Storage and Handling Summary
- BUD Guidance and Labels
- Storage and Handling Labels
- Vaccine Expiration Date Tracking Tool
- Freezer Storage Loggers (F) and (C)
- Prep and Administration Summary
- Standing Orders Template

[Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine 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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Vaccine Considerations for Staff



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The CDC has issued guidance for [post-vaccine considerations for healthcare personnel](#).

Providers should develop strategies to evaluate and manage post-vaccination signs and symptoms among staff, which will help prevent:

- Unnecessarily excluding staff with only post-vaccination signs and symptoms from work; and
- Inadvertently allowing staff with COVID-19 or another transmissible infection to work.

Vaccine Considerations for Staff



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The CDC's post-vaccine guidance for staff relies on identifying symptoms that:

- may be from vaccination (e.g. fever, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle pain, joint pain)
- are unlikely to be caused by the vaccine (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, loss of taste or smell)

Post-vaccine guidance applies to staff for 3 days after receiving the vaccine (the day of receiving the vaccine is day one).

Post-vaccine guidance does not apply to staff who had unprotected exposure to COVID-19 within 14 days.

CDC Post-Vaccine Guidance



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Staff experiencing signs and symptoms unlikely to be caused by COVID-19 Vaccination:

- Exclude from work pending evaluation of COVID-19 as appropriate.
- Criteria for [Return to Work](#) depends on the suspected or confirmed diagnosis.
- If staff member receives a negative COVID-19 test result via an antigen test, immediately follow up with a PCR test to confirm.

CDC Post-Vaccine Guidance



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Staff experiencing signs and symptoms that may be from the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Staff may be able to return to work without additional testing if:
 - They feel well enough to work; and
 - Are afebrile; and
 - Signs and symptoms are limited to only those likely to be caused by the vaccine.
- If symptoms do not improve in 2 days, consider testing for COVID-19.
- If staff receives a negative antigen test result, immediately follow up with a PCR test to confirm.

Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Resources



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- [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](#)

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber

Associate Commissioner for Regional and
Local Health Operations

DSHS

Angel H. Angco-Barrera, MBA, BSN, RN

Director of Public Health Nursing

Division of Regional and Local Health Operations

DSHS



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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 Q&A

Panelist

Dana Williamson

Director, Policy Development and Support
Medicaid/CHIP

-
- Updates



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COVID-19

Panelist

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

- Updates
- Live Q&A



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QSO 21-07 for ICF/IIDs

[Released December 17, 2020](#)

CMS has developed a FAQ document to identify strategies and promising practices for Medicare or Medicaid certified facilities (including ICFs) to help address COVID-19 prevention, treatment and mitigation strategies. This includes positive behavioral strategies to address individuals' support needs during the pandemic.

These practices can be employed to assist people who refuse testing, are confirmed COVID-19 positive, or have COVID-19 symptoms, yet are unable or unwilling to isolate, cohort, or wear PPE.



QSO 21-07 for ICF/IIDs

The FAQs are intended to provide guidance in the following areas:

- Promising practices, measurement, and mitigation strategies for infection control during the PHE
- Use of isolation, cohorting and PPE
- Intervention, mitigation, and training strategies
- Transition and discharge during the PHE
- Engaging family, caregiver, support personnel, and community resources
- Available local, State and Federal resource guides and web links. CMS does note that ICF/IIDs should monitor the CDC website for information and resources, and contact the local health department, when necessary.



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Questions?

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Thank you!

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