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Welcome ICF Providers!

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

January 25, 2021

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 – Updated 1/12/21](#)
 - [ICF COVID Response Plan – Updated 1/12/21](#)
- Click on “Provider Communications”
 - [Provider Letter 20-43: Expansion of Reopening Visitation](#)
 - [Provider Letter 20-53: Guidance for Activities, Dining, and Volunteers](#)



HHSC Publishes Revised Change of Ownership Transfer Affidavit Form in PL 2021-02

HHSC has published [Provider Letter 2021-02 \(Replaces PL 10-50\) Change of Ownership Transfer Affidavit Form](#).

The purpose of this letter is to notify current ICF (and ALF, DAHS, HCSSA, NF and PPECC) license holders, and license applicants, of a change in the forms required for a change of ownership.

The revised HHSC [Form 1092](#), *Change of Ownership Transfer Affidavit Form*, will replace the following forms:

- [Form 3604](#)
- [Form 3604A](#)
- [Form 3725](#)



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2021 Long Term Care Facilities Council Report

During the 86th session of Legislature, in 2019, Senate Bill 1519 determined this council/report would be required.

The Long Term Care Facilities Council's [first report](#) has been posted to the HHSC website.



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Flu & COVID-19

With both flu and COVID-19 circulating, getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever.

CDC released a Frequently Asked Questions page about the 2020 – 2021 Flu Season

- [FAQs: Flu and COVID-19](#)
- [Getting a Flu Vaccine during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Similarities and Differences between Flu and COVID-19](#)
- [PL 20-50 Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine Guidance during COVID-19](#)



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CDC Vaccination Toolkit

[Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination at Your Facility](#)

This toolkit outlines the importance of COVID-19 vaccination in LTCFs, provides strategies for encouraging COVID-19 vaccination, and includes tools a facility may use to monitor COVID-19 vaccination side effects among staff and residents.



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DSHS Resources *Updated*

New information has been added/updated as follows:

ADDED new page: [COVID-19 Vaccine Allocations](#)

UPDATED: [Information for COVID-19 Vaccination Providers](#)

UPDATED: [COVID-19 Vaccination Hub Providers](#)

UPDATED: [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

UPDATED: [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs](#)

UPDATED: [Texas COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Tools](#)

[Texas Executive Orders & Public Health Disaster Declarations](#)

Public Health Disaster Declarations ADDED: [January 15, 2020](#)

If you have any questions or would like more information about the content on this website, please contact coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov.

DSHS Training Video

DSHS Video on Long-term Care Facilities COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Now Available

The Department of State Health Services has published a recorded training for long-term care providers on COVID-19 precautions to take and how to accomplish them.

[View the video training](#)



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COVID-19 Vaccine Federal Pharmacy Program

For facilities currently enrolled in the Federal 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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Federal Pharmacy Partnership Program Resources

Providers with questions about CVS or Walgreens COVID-19 vaccinations administered through the Federal Pharmacy Partnership program should contact the following:

CVS:

- 1-833-968-1756
- CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com

Walgreens:

- immunizeLTC@walgreens.com



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DSHS 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

Providers can email DSHS at Vaccine.LTCF@dshs.texas.gov.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Helpful Links

These links will be updated as new information on COVID-19 vaccines are available.

CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Site

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>

COVID-19 ACIP Recommendations

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/covid-19.html>

CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>



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COVID-19 Vaccine Helpful Links



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Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine specific information

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/index.html>
- <https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/>
- <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers)

- <https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>

FDA Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 EUA document -Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers

- <https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine – Standing Orders for Administering Vaccine to Persons 16 Years of Age and Older

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/pfizer/downloads/standing-orders.pdf>

COVID-19 Vaccine Helpful Links



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Moderna COVID-19 vaccine specific information

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/moderna/index.html>
- <https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/>
- <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine>

Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) – Emergency Use Authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to Prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- <https://www.fda.gov/media/144637/download>

Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers – Emergency Use Authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to Prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- <https://www.fda.gov/media/144638/download>



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COVID-19 Vaccine Allocation

Texas announces COVID-19 vaccine allocation for week of Jan. 25

The state Texas will receive 333,650 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine next week. The Texas Department of State Health Services has instructed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ship those doses to 260 providers across Texas. That includes 79 hub providers that will focus on large community vaccination efforts and 181 additional providers.

People can find more information on COVID-19 vaccine at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine.aspx.

Helpful links:

[Vaccination hub providers with contact information](#) – Contact a provider in your area to learn about vaccination. Some may already have a waiting list for appointments.

[DSHS/TDEM map of vaccine providers](#)

[Full list of vaccine allocations for the week of Jan. 23](#)

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 Vaccine Side Effects

Preliminary data from COVID-19 vaccine trials suggest that most post-vaccination symptoms are mild to moderate in severity.

Most symptoms occur within the first 3 days of vaccination (the day of vaccination and following 2 days) and most of the symptoms occur the day after vaccination.

Symptoms timing:

- typically resolve within 1-2 days of onset
- more frequent and severe following the second dose
- more frequent and severe in younger people compared to those that are older (>55 years)



COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects

On the arm where you got the shot:

- Pain
- Swelling

Throughout the rest of your body:

- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache

Symptoms NOT consistent Post-Vaccine:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell



COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects

Helpful Tips

- To reduce pain and discomfort:
 - Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the area.
 - Use or exercise your arm.
- To reduce discomfort from fever:
 - Drink plenty of fluids.
 - Dress lightly.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/expect/after.html>



COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects

Q: *Is it safe to give the vaccine to COVID positive residents/staff if they are asymptomatic (or symptomatic for that matter) and what about those in "unknown" status?*

A: Vaccination should be deferred until recovery from acute illness (if person had symptoms) and criteria have been met to discontinue isolation. There is no minimum interval between infection and vaccine. However, current evidence suggests reinfection uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection, and thus persons with documented acute infection in the preceding 90 days may defer vaccination until the end of this period, if desired

COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

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



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COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

Dana Williamson

Director, Policy Development and Support
Medicaid/CHIP

-
- Updates



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COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

Mary Valente, MPAff, LBSW, SMQT, CMDCP
Policy Development Support Office
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- Updates
 - Q&A

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

- Updates
- Live Q&A



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Has the state developed any plan/regulations for visitation to long-term care facilities for visitors who have completed the Covid-19 vaccination series and waited the required time frame for an immune response?

Answer:

At this time, the latest rules regarding visitation include the following:

[ICF/IID COVID-19 Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rule](#)

In addition to the visitation rules above, LTCFs continue to follow all rules including:

[The ICF Provider COVID-19 Updated Mitigation and Response Emergency Rule](#)



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COVID-19 Q&A

Answer (cont):

Per [CDC](#), both natural immunity and vaccine-induced immunity are important aspects of COVID-19 that experts are trying to learn more about. More data on how well the vaccine works is needed before it can be determined how long immunity lasts.

Additionally, the CDC cannot confirm that any COVID-19 vaccination will have any effect on preventing transmission of the virus. Per their [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs for Healthcare Professionals](#), a special type of cohort study will try to answer the question about whether vaccinated persons can develop asymptomatic infections and spread the virus to others.

As the CDC, CMS and DSHS learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, and update their rules and guidance, HHSC will evaluate and revise the emergency rules accordingly.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Has the State developed any plan/regulation for a long-term care facility once residents have also completed the COVID-19 vaccination series and waited the requisite time for an immune response?

Answer:

We are eagerly awaiting more CDC guidance regarding how the COVID-19 vaccine affects transmission of the virus, and how that may affect current infection control and prevention strategies. CDC still recommends that we continue to use all tools available, including mask wearing, frequent hand hygiene, physical distancing, cough and sneeze etiquette, and frequent disinfection, to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this time, scientific experts at CDC have a limited understanding about the protection the COVID-19 vaccines provide and have not changed any recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Please see the [CDC's FAQs about Vaccination](#) for more information.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

What if there are residents in a facility who refuses the COVID-19 vaccine? Will that affect the visitation for the rest of the residents?

Answer:

Every resident has the right to refuse the COVID-19 vaccine and it does not affect any resident's right to receive visitors in the long-term care facility per the current visitation guidelines.

Once the CDC issues new guidance on whether our current public health mitigation measures can be relaxed and/or CMS issues new rules for visitation or protocols for those who have received the vaccine, HHSC will update rules and regulations for LTC facilities as needed.



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Questions?

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Thank you!

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