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**Welcome ICF Providers!**

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

**November 16, 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](mailto:PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us)

Phone: 512-438-3161

# COVID-19 Updates

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## 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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# 2020 ICF Provider Conference

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Virtual webinars scheduled for November 18, 2020

## **Top 10 Citations**

9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1.5 hours of CEUs Available

[Register for the Top 10 Citations Webinar](#)

## **Infection Control**

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1.5 contact hours of Nursing Continuing Professional Development Available

1.5 hours of Continuing Education for Social Workers Available

[Register for the Infection Control Webinar](#)

Texas Health and Human Services Commission Long-Term Care Regulatory Services is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by Colorado Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

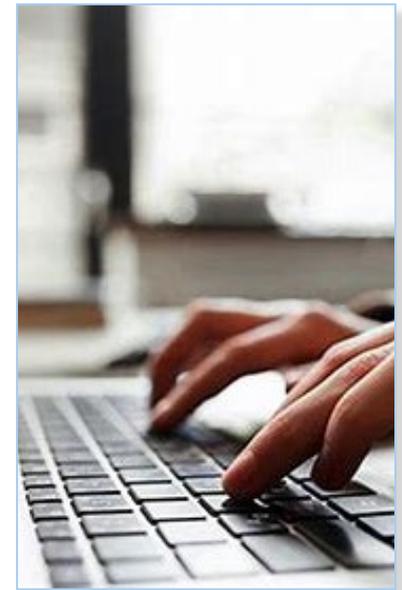
# Resources



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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](#)
  - Click on "Provider Communications"
- [Visitation FAQ](#) - *posted 10/27/20*
  - Under "COVID-19 Resources"





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# Bringing Food During Visitation

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Visitors are not prohibited from bringing in outside food for an individual.

Individuals may eat or drink during visitation.

Visitors (including essential caregivers) may not eat or drink with an individual during the visit as it would require the visitor to remove their facemask.

Facility should refer to CDC guidance on [Food Safety](#) for food brought in from the outside for an individual.

Continued on next slide.

# Bringing Food During Visitation

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From the [CDC's food safety](#) webpage:

- The risk of infection by the virus from food products, food packaging, or bags is thought to be very low.
- Currently, no cases of COVID-19 have been identified where infection was thought to have occurred by touching food, food packaging, or shopping bags.
- Do NOT use disinfectants designed for hard surfaces, such as bleach or ammonia, on food packaged in cardboard or plastic wrap.
- After handling food packages and before eating food, always wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



# Holiday Activities & Outings

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ICFs planning group activities, including holiday meals, should follow the following bullets:

- Group activities should be for COVID-19 negative individuals
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between each individual
- Perform hand hygiene before and after activity
- Staff wear facemasks, and individuals wear facemasks or face coverings if tolerated
- Do not use shared items
- Clean and sanitize the activity area and all items used before and after each activity



# Holiday Activities & Outings

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Individuals have the right to make the informed decision to leave the facility for a holiday activity.

ICFs should educate individuals (or individual families if possible) about risks and infection control protocol, including:

- Avoiding large group gatherings
- Avoiding having a buffet-style meal
- Do not include persons with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in gatherings
- Wear facemasks as much as possible (or as tolerated for the individual)
- Ensure frequent and proper handwashing



# Holiday Activities & Outings

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Additional recommendations for holiday gatherings per [CDC](#):

- Outdoor events are safer than indoor events
- Limit the number of attendees as much as possible
- If possible, host activities with only people from your local area or ask visitors from outside local area to quarantine 14 days beforehand
- Wash hands before and after preparing, serving, or eating food

CDC recommends that those with increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid in-person gatherings.



# Holiday Activities & Outings

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Per the [COVID-19 Response Rule](#), individuals who leave the facility must be placed in the 'unknown COVID-19 status' and quarantined for 14 days upon return if they:

- Have been gone overnight
- Had exposure or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive, or who was exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting test results

If an individual does not meet either of these conditions, they do not have to be quarantined upon return.



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# Having Items Delivered

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Individuals may receive items from family members or otherwise have items delivered, including food, flowers, and packages.

For items delivered outside of a personal visit, ICFs should designate an area outside of the facility to receive deliveries.

ICF staff would retrieve the items, bring them inside, and disinfect them prior to delivering the items to the individuals. Facilities should follow CDC guidance for appropriate disinfecting guidelines, depending on what the items are.



# Having Items Delivered

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For handling non-food items, [CDC recommends](#) hand washing after handling items delivered or after handling mail.

Per CDC, although COVID-19 can survive for a short period on some surfaces, it is unlikely to be spread from domestic or international mail, products or packaging.

It may be possible to get COVID-19 by touching an object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Individuals have a right to privacy with their mail per federal and state rule.



# Having Items Delivered

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Visitors may bring items, including food, for an individual during a visit.

For essential caregivers, the ICF should inform the essential caregiver of the necessary infection control and food safety protocols for delivered items.

For other visitors, ICF staff should assist to deliver the item to the individual so that the visitor does not violate physical distancing.



# Having Items Delivered

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Individuals may eat or drink during visitation.

Visitors (including essential caregivers) may not eat or drink with individual during the visit as it would require the visitor to remove their facemask.

CDC food safety page:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/food-and-COVID-19.html>

# Reminder: Isolation vs. Quarantine



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	Quarantine	Isolation
Who is it for?	Unknown COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New admissions</li> <li>- Readmissions</li> <li>- Away from ICF for 1 or more nights</li> <li>- Exposure to someone with COVID-19</li> </ul>	COVID-19 Positive
PPE	Requires N95, gown, gloves, goggles/face shield	Requires N95, gown, gloves, goggles/face shield
Visitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- essential caregiver</li> <li>- end-of-life</li> <li>- closed window</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- end-of-life</li> <li>- closed window</li> </ul>
Timeframe	14 days	Per CDC guidance <i>(detailed on next slide)</i>

# Reminder: Isolation vs. Quarantine

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## Timeframe for [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions](#) (Isolation)

- Mild to moderate illness or not severely immunocompromised:
  - At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **and**
  - At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
  - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved



# Reminder: Isolation vs. Quarantine

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## Timeframe for [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions](#) (Isolation)

- Severe to critical illness or severely immunocompromised:
  - At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **and**
  - At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
  - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved
  - Consider consultation with infection control experts



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# COVID-19 Test Results

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## **Potential for False Positive Results with Antigen Tests for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2 - Letter to Clinical Laboratory Staff and Health Care Providers**

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/letters-health-care-providers/potential-false-positive-results-antigen-tests-rapid-detection-sars-cov-2-letter-clinical-laboratory>



# COVID-19 Test Results

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The FDA:

- is aware of reports of false positive results associated with antigen tests used in nursing homes and other settings and
- continues to monitor and evaluate these reports and other available information about device safety and performance.
- recommends interpreting the results in light of the CDC guidance about using antigen tests in nursing homes  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/nursing-homes-antigen-testing.html>

# DSHS Distributes Antibody Therapy

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- An antibody drug by Eli Lilly & Co., called bamlanivimab, is to be distributed to acute care hospitals across every geographic region of the state.
- Provided to the state at no cost through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-dshs-announce-distribution-of-covid-19-antibody-therapy-to-hospitals-across-texas>

# DSHS Distributes Antibody Therapy

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- DSHS will allocate this initial distribution of bamlanivimab based on three criteria:
  - new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the community,
  - new lab-confirmed COVID-19 admissions to hospitals, and
  - total lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients in hospitals.
- Bamlanivimab is for outpatient use in people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are at increased risk of severe disease.
- It has been shown to prevent hospitalizations in some patients when used before they become very sick.

# COVID-19 Updates

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## Panelist

Renee Blanch-Haley, BSN, RN  
Director of Survey Operations  
Survey Operations  
Long-term Care Regulation

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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

Dana Williamson

Director, Policy Development and Support  
Medicaid/CHIP

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- Updates



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# COVID-19 Updates

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## 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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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

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

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# COVID Q&A

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## Question:

What COVID-19 guidance is recommended for our Activities department?

## Answer:

ICFs can offer a variety of activities while also taking necessary precautions. For example, book clubs, crafts, movies, exercise, and bingo are all activities that can be facilitated with alterations to adhere to the guidelines for preventing transmission. *(cont. on next slide)*



# COVID Q&A

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## Answer (cont.):

Group activities that adhere to the following criteria are acceptable:

- Limit the number of people in an area of the facility participating in an activity to a number that will ensure physical distancing is maintained at all times.
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between each individual.
- Staff and individuals perform appropriate hand hygiene before and after each activity.
- Staff wear facemasks, and individuals wear facemasks or face coverings as tolerated. (*cont. on next slide*)



# COVID Q&A

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## Answer (cont.):

- Do not use shared items.
- Clean and sanitize the activity area and all items used before and after each activity.

ICFs should consider additional limitations based on status of COVID-19 infections in the facility.

Additionally, group activities should only be facilitated for individuals who are COVID-29 negative, have fully recovered from COVID-19, and for those not in quarantine for observation, or with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 status.

# COVID Q&A

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## Question:

What is the difference between the Form 2195 and 2196?

## Answer:

Visitation Attestation Form 2195 is for ICF providers. Form 2196 is for ALFs.



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# COVID Q&A

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## **Question:**

How do I appeal a decision on the Visitation Attestation Form?

## **Answer:**

If you would like to appeal the decision, resubmit the attestation form with additional information to the Regional Director.



# COVID Q&A

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## Question:

Do essential caregiver visits have to be monitored? Do I have to monitor other types of visits?

## Answer:

Staff supervision is not required for end-of-life, essential caregiver, or salon services visits.

Staff supervision is required for all outdoor visits and all indoor visits with a Plexiglas barrier.

The intent of the supervision is to ensure individuals and visitors are following the applicable requirements in the expanded visitation rules.



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# Questions?

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# Thank you!

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