Welcome ICF/IID Providers!

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

September 21, 2020

For more information:
Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161
COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

Catherine Anglin
Sr. Policy Specialist; NF, ICF, LSC
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulatory

• Reminders
• Updates
Reminder

GovDelivery

• GovDelivery is an email and electronic notification system that will notify you anytime information is posted.

• You can register for GovDelivery notifications by clicking on this [GovDelivery Sign-up Link](#) and following the instructions for signing up for notifications.
Please read and review frequently. Keep a copy on hand at all times.

COVID-19 Response for ICF
COVID-19 Response for ICF

COVID-19 response plan – upcoming revisions and updates:

• Expansion of reopening visitation

• Return-to-work criteria

• Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions

• Updated references

• Minimize duplicate information

GA-30 announced that visitation at ICFs, including SSLCs will be permitted again.
• new visitation rules
• new visitation guidance

Rules expected to be effective September 24, 2020.
Expanding Visitation

- Alert: New LTC Expansion of Visitation Guidelines
- Press release: HHSC Expands Visitation at Long-Term Care Facilities
- New rules are announced via GovDelivery
Expanding Visitation

• Expanded visitation options for eligible ICFs effective September 24

• Updated visitation rules will permit ICFs to have visitation in COVID-free areas, not just when entire facility is COVID-free

• Reopening is optional for ICFs
  • ICFs that don’t have the resources to re-open safely will not be mandated to open or allow for essential caregivers
Expanding Visitation

All visitation allowed in Phase 1 will still be allowed:
• outdoor visits
• open window visits
• vehicle parades
• indoor plexiglass visits

Compassionate care visits replaced with essential caregiver visits
• less restrictive than compassionate care visits in Phase 1
• up to two designated caregivers
Expanding Visitation

• Designated essential caregiver can provide supportive, hands-on care to individuals who do not have COVID-19

• Essential caregivers allowed to visit the individual in their room
  • one caregiver at a time
  • by appointment only

• ICFs will outline in their visitation policies the number of designated caregivers that can be in the facility at any given time
Expanding Visitation

- Essential caregivers will be trained by the ICF on PPE use and infection control, and they must meet the testing requirement

- Essential caregiver must:
  - use PPE
  - pass screening
  - be escorted into and out of the individual’s room
Expanding Visitation

We are all pleased to hear about the expanded visitation options coming September 24.

We know you have a lot of questions about the specifics in the visitation rules and we look forward to being able to share the specifics with you.

Until the rules are available, we don’t have any more information than what is in the press release and alert.
COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations
DSHS

• Updates
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

• Updates
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Dana Williamson
Director, Policy Development and Support Medicaid/CHIP

• Updates
COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

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

• Updates
• Q&A
Mini Training

Panelist

Melodee Duesing
ICF Training Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Kirsten Notaro, MA
ICF Policy Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation
COVID-19 Q&A

**Question:**
Are nursing students able to attend clinicals in an ICF?

**Response:**
At this time, nursing students are recognized as providers of essential services. They may enter the facility for clinicals as long as they pass the COVID-19 screening.
COVID-19 Q&A

Question:
Can providers be cited for individuals not wearing masks in their home?

Response:
An ICF should not be cited solely because an individual did not wear a facemask or face covering in their home. If a surveyor determines that noncompliance exists, they must cite to the requirement in rule and based on multiple pieces of evidence.

Residents should be encouraged to wear a facemask or face covering. The information in the COVID-19 response plan and from the CDC is infection control guidance that we strongly encourage all ICF providers to follow.
Response cont.

While there were some changes early on as to when an individual should wear a facemask or face covering, that was because the guidance from the CDC was changing rapidly.

However, as a reminder, the guidance from the COVID-19 response plan indicates that a resident:

- should wear a facemask at all times if they are ill, may have been exposed to COVID-19, or has unknown COVID-19 status
- should wear a facemask or face covering at all times when out of their bedroom if they are not ill;
- must wear a facemask or face covering, if tolerated, when participating in Phase 1 visitation.
COVID-19 Q&A

**Question:**

Mask wearing is causing significant skin issues for several of my residents, from eczema to pimples. How best should we document that wearing the mask as required is not good for their skin and should not be worn as recommended?

**Response:**

You should follow the process you normally would when it comes to recommendations for care. For example, W124, explains that an individual must be given the right to refuse treatment and any decisions made must be documented accordingly.
Questions?

For more information:
Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161
Thank you!

For more information:
Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161