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Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR
and DSHS
August 5, 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 Q&A

Panelist

Robert Ochoa
Senior Policy Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

- Introduction and overview
- Reminders and updates



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Reminder

New Webinar Format

- Updates, reminders and announcements
- Introduction of panelists
- **Mini trainings**
- Q and A



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Reminder

Sign-up for Gov Delivery

To sign-up for 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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CMS/CDC NF COVID-19 Training

CMS hosts a weekly webinar series (every Thursday, 4-5 pm ET) to provide training for infection control processes in nursing homes:

[Register Here](#) for future webinars.

- **August 6:** COVID-19 Surveillance to Enable Early Detection and Response to Outbreaks: NHSN Mandatory Data Collection
- **August 13:** COVID-19 Testing
- **August 20:** Cohorting Strategies



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Reminder: NF Testing Reimbursement FAQ

On August 3, HHSC published a FAQ for NF Provider COVID-19 Testing Reimbursement

[See FAQ Here](#)



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Reminder:

Obtaining N95 Masks

To obtain N95 masks, submit a request to your Hospital Preparedness Program Provider.

Please contact your LTCR Region if:

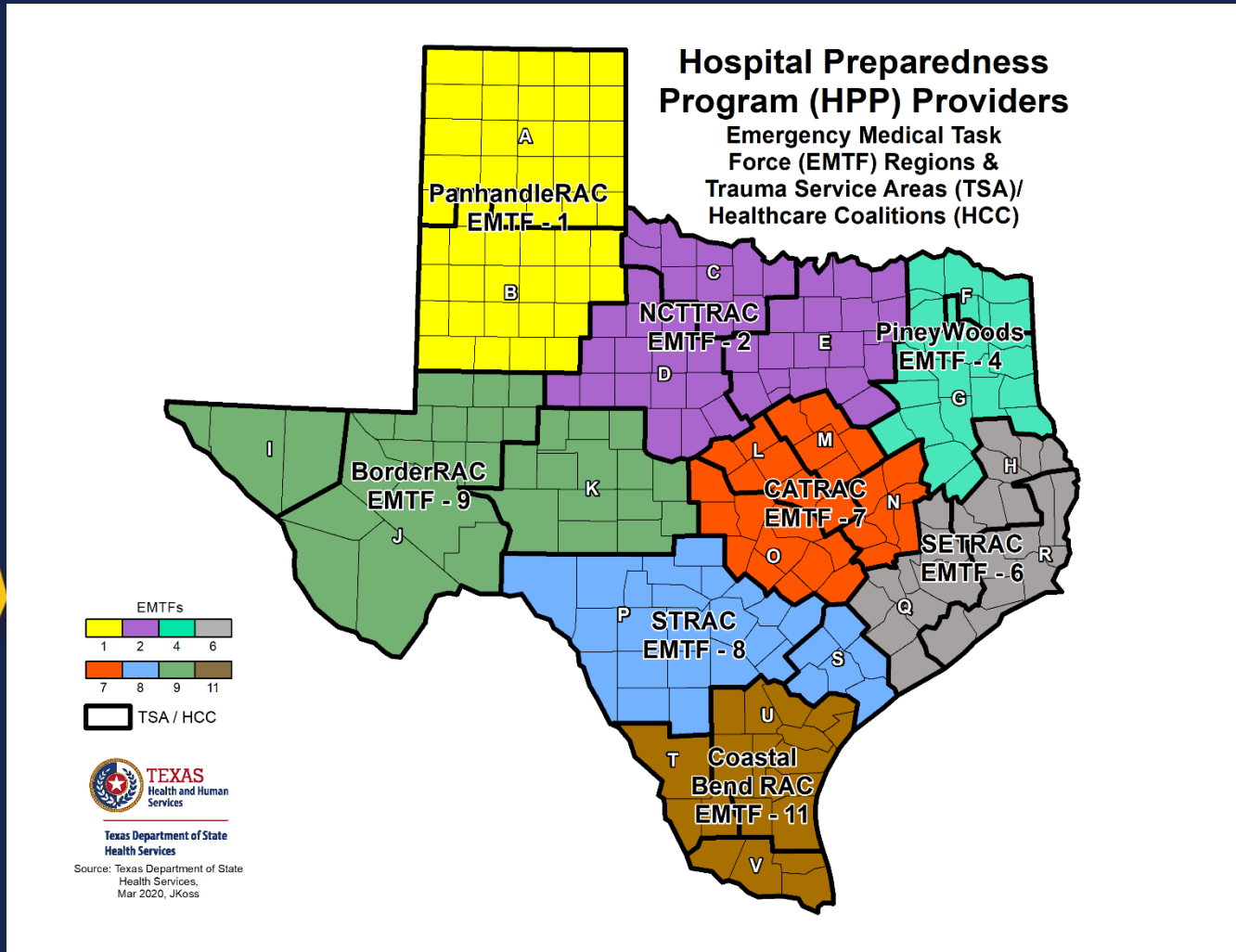
- If you are told your facility is not eligible to receive PPE
- If you are told that the Hospital Preparedness Program Provider does not have N95 masks to distribute



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Reminder: Obtaining N95 Masks

Hospital Preparedness Program Providers by region



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Reminder: Obtaining N95 Masks

Contact for Hospital Preparedness Program Providers.

- Panhandle RAC: (806) 322-1290
www.panhandlerac.com
- North Central Texas Trauma RAC: (817) 608-0390
www.ncttrac.org
- Piney Woods RAC: (903) 593-4722 www.RAC-G.org
- SouthEast Texas RAC: (281) 822-4444
www.setrac.org
- Capital Area Trauma RAC: (512) 926-6184
www.catrac.org
- Southwest Texas RAC: (210) 233-5850
www.strac.org
- Far West Texas & Southern New Mexico (DBA BorderRAC): (915) 838-3200 www.bodderrac.org
- Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council (361) 929-5401 www.cbrac.org



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik, DNP, RN
Associate Commissioner
Long-term Care Regulation



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- Updates

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Susan Purcell, BS, RN, CPHQ

Project Director/Regional Task Lead –
Nursing Home Quality Improvement

TMF Health Quality Institute, the CMS-
designated Quality Improvement Network –
Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-
QIO) for Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi,
Nebraska, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands

Email nhnetwork@tmf.org to submit requests
for assistance with NHSN reporting problems.



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State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Statewide phone: 800-252-2412

Statewide email:

ltc.ombudsman@hhsc.state.tx.us

State Ombudsman: Patty Ducayet, 737-704-9075
(or) patty.ducayet@hhsc.state.tx.us



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Weekly Facebook Live Q&A for Families of LTC
Residents: Every Wednesday, 12:15 to 12:45
<https://www.facebook.com/texasltcombudsman?ref-ts>

State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Update: Ombudsmen beginning visits

- Will contact administrator prior to first visit
- Ombudsmen have legal access
- Will cooperate with facility screening, bring own PPE



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and
Local Health Operations
DSHS

- Updates



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Mini Training

Panelists

Jennifer Wills
Joint Training Specialist
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory Services
Division

Cynthia Crim
Joint Training Specialist
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory Services
Division



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DSHS



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-
- Questions from last week

COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Is the screening form that is provided in the [COVID response plan](#) acceptable to use. We have been told it doesn't list all the symptoms and therefore is not an acceptable screening tool?



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Can facilities test new admissions and readmissions 3, 4, 5 days (or at some point after they are admitted) and shorten the quarantine period from 14 days if they test negative?

Answer:

No, testing cannot be used to shorten the quarantine period.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Is it necessary to follow-up negative tests done via rapid testing with PCR tests to confirm? In all situations or just in high risk situations?

Answer:

Any negative result from an antigen test should be considered presumptive, not confirmed.

Note: More information will be forthcoming on COVID-19 antigen tests.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Do we need to wipe down frequently touched surfaces every 2 hours 24 hours a day?

Answer:

The guidance is to wipe down surfaces “frequently” which we would interpret to be as much as possible/feasible.



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- Questions from last week



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

When will approval for CMP funds for electronic devices be sent out?

Answer:

Additional staff have been brought on board to process applications. Please email CmpApplication@hhsc.state.tx.us with questions about your specific application



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Are facilities going to be held accountable to weekly testing if they don't have a point of care testing kit yet? How are we supposed to get these test done?

Answer:

Weekly testing of staff is not a CMS or Texas requirement. CMS has indicated that weekly staff testing may be a requirement in the future. The [CDC recommends](#) weekly testing of staff.

CMS has published a point-of-care device allocation [document](#) that shows which nursing facilities have been allocated a point-of-care device. *(Cont. on next slide)*



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COVID-19 Q&A

The criteria for point-of-care device allocation is as follows:

- Nursing homes that are in hotspots as identified on the “Hot Spots” tab of the [document](#); or
- Nursing homes nationwide that have reported any of the following:
 - Three or more confirmed or suspected new cases of COVID-19 in the last week
 - At least one new COVID-19 case in the last week after having zero previous COVID-19 cases
- *(Cont. on next slide)*



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COVID-19 Q&A

The criteria for point-of-care device allocation is as follows (Continued):

- Inadequate access to testing in the last week
- At least one new resident death due to COVID-19 in the last week
- At least one new confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case among staff in the last week

Note: Nursing homes must have a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver to receive a testing device.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

The verbiage from cdc/cms for visitation has been “compassionate care” which may include something other than end of life, is this correct?

Answer:

To clarify a point from last week’s webinar, [Texas emergency rules](#) prohibit visitation in NFs unless the visitor is providing essential services, has legal authority to enter, or is providing critical assistance, which includes family members or friends of residents at the end of life. *(Cont. on next slide)*



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While CMS [QSO-20-30-NH](#) *Nursing Home Reopening Recommendations for State and Local Officials* expands the type of visit considered a compassionate care visit, Texas rules do not.



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Questions?

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