Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR and DSHS
December 9, 2020

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

Panelist

Catherine Anglin
Program Manager: NF and LSC
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

- Reminders
New Webinar Agenda

Mini-trainings will be included every-other week to allow additional time for live Q&A.

We will have a mini-training this week, with no mini-training scheduled for next week.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

- Introduction and overview
- Updates
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.”
CMS/CDC NF COVID-19 Training

CMS is offering free online training for nursing facilities related to COVID-19

Click here to view currently available pre-recorded trainings.

Facilities also have access to the CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff and Management

Bi-weekly Live Q&As will be held Thursdays at 4pm E.T. (3pm Central) starting August 27th.

Register Here for future Q&A webinars.
NF Webinar: Managing COVID-19

The purpose of this webinar is to inform and prepare NFs in a specific area where COVID-19 is surging.

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis:

1. Bexar County and Surrounding Areas
   Dec. 14, 1:30 p.m.
   Register for the webinar.

2. Travis County and Surrounding Areas
   December 14, 2020
   10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.

1. El Paso and Surrounding Areas
   Dec. 17, 2:00 p.m.
   Register for the webinar.
Flu & COVID-19 Webinar

HHSC is hosting a webinar focused on the similarities and differences between COVID-19 & flu, including guidance related to flu vaccine administration.

1. Dec. 10, 2020; 10 – 11 a.m.
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.

2. Dec. 10, 2020; 2 – 3 p.m.
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.

3. Dec. 21, 2020; 1 – 2 p.m.
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.

4. Dec. 22, 2020; 11 a.m. – noon
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.
HHSC Essential Caregiver Training


This document provides a training resource for providers.

It can be used to meet the training requirements for essential caregivers under the *Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rule*.

You can find this document on the *Nursing Facility Provider Portal*, in the “COVID-19 Resources” Section.
CNA Strong Webinar

If you work with Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) in a long-term care setting, this 2-hour webinar is for them!

The webinar is designed to:
• acknowledge the invaluable work of CNAs
• provide relevant information regarding their role

CNAs attending will receive 2 hours of in-service credit.

December 29, 2020
10:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m.
Register here for webinar.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Christine Riley
Nurse III / Clinical Policy Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation
The CDC has updated guidance related to quarantine protocol.

This guidance applies to residents who have unknown COVID-19, including a resident who:

• is a new admission or readmission
• has spent one or more nights away from the facility
• has had known exposure or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive

This guidance does NOT apply to COVID-19 positive residents or residents displaying signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

(Continued on next slide)
The CDC still endorses the 14-day quarantine period, but has also provided alternate options:

• 10-day quarantine, without testing
• 7-day quarantine, with a negative COVID-19 test result on or after day 5

(Continued on next slide)
Updated Quarantine Guidance

NF must work with their local health departments (or DSHS region if there is no local health department) to determine which quarantine options may be used with staff and residents.

NFs can only choose to follow the shortened quarantined options if deemed acceptable by the local health department.

See CDC’s [When to Quarantine](#) for more information.
COVID-19 Vaccine Programs

Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program

- CDC (federal) Program
- Connects LTC facilities with pharmacies
- Pharmacies provide end-to-end management of the COVID-19 process

Enrollment period is closed

See CDC’s Webpage for more information

COVID-19 Provider Program

- DSHS (state) Program
- Facilities are responsible for administration and management of COVID-19 vaccine

Enrollment is still open

See DSHS webpage for more information
COVID-19 Vaccine Pharmacy Program

Last week, HHSC collected information from LTC facilities to register for the Pharmacy Partnership for LTC Program.

The registration was intended for facilities that had not already signed up for the program through NHSN.

The registration deadline was Friday, 12/4, 9:00 a.m.

DSHS is determining the next steps for providers who were unable to register.

HHSC will continue to keep providers informed as additional distribution programs and information become available.
COVID-19 Vaccine Pharmacy Program

Per the CDC, facilities that enrolled in the program during the initial enrollment period (through NHSN) will **not** receive a confirmation email after enrolling.

CDC will communicate this information to your chosen pharmacy provider. When it is time to schedule on-site clinics, the pharmacy partners will reach out directly to your facility to coordinate the event.

HHSC is not able to confirm which facilities are currently enrolled in this program.
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.
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.
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
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.

NFs have the ability to make 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.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik, DNP, RN
Associate Commissioner
Long-term Care Regulation
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Renee Blanch-Haley, BSN, RN
Director of Survey Operations
Long-term Care Regulation
State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Statewide phone: 800-252-2412
• Statewide email: ltc.ombudsman@hhs.texas.gov

State Ombudsman: Patty Ducayet, 737-704-9075 (or) patty.ducayet@hhs.Texas.gov

Weekly Facebook Live Q&A for Families of LTC Residents: Every Wednesday, 12:15 to 12:45
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Melody Malone, PT, CPHQ, MHA, CDP, CADDCT
TeamSTEPPS® Master Trainer
INTERACT® Certified Champion

Healthcare Quality Improvement Specialist
TMF Health Quality Institute
NHSN – SAMS Level 3 Access

• Required for Point of Care Testing data submission

• Requires identity proofing by each individual requesting access

• See TMF resources here: NHSN Resources

• See CDC resource here: SAMS Level Three Access

• Reach out to us at nhnetwork@tmf.org to submit requests for assistance with NHSN reporting problems.
NHSN – SAMS Level 3 Access

Please allow up to 7-9 business days for NHSN to reply to any email concerning SAMS.

- Prior to reaching out to NHSN, please check spam folders and trash folders for an invitational email from SAMS.

- It is possible that you have a SAMS level 3 invitation email from NHSN that is awaiting action.

- Look for an email with the subject line “SAMS Partner Portal – Identity Verification Request Form” from SAMS-no-reply@cdc.gov
Effective November 23, 2020

The CDC made changes to the Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Module


• Find the new Instructions for Completion of the COVID-19 Long-term Care Facility (LTCF) Resident Impact and Facility Capacity Form here: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/covid19/ltcf/57.144-toi-508.pdf
Effective November 23, 2020

3 more sessions of Office Hours to review November changes coming up (each one is the same):

- **Date:** Thursday, Dec 10, 2020 **Time:** 1:30 – 2:30 PM ET
- **Date:** Monday, Dec 14, 2020 **Time:** 12:30 – 1:30 PM ET
- **Date:** Thursday, Dec 17, 2020 **Time:** 1:30 – 2:30 PM ET

Register in advance for these webinars:  
https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_sRh orvThTnW1IIjhCsvWQ
CDC COVID-19 Module Website

https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html
CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management Learning

- Available through the CMS Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP).
- Frontline nursing home staff modules:
  Module 1: Hand Hygiene and PPE
  Module 2: Screening and Surveillance
  Module 3: Cleaning the Nursing Home
  Module 4: Cohorting
  Module 5: Caring for Residents with Dementia in a Pandemic
- 3 hours total training time

- Management staff modules:
  Module 1: Hand Hygiene and PPE
  Module 2: Screening and Surveillance
  Module 3: Cleaning the Nursing Home
  Module 4: Cohorting
  Module 5: Caring for Residents with Dementia in a Pandemic
  Module 6: Basic Infection Control
  Module 7: Emergency Preparedness and Surge Capacity
  Module 8: Addressing Emotional Health of Residents and Staff
  Module 9: Telehealth for Nursing Homes
  Module 10: Getting Your Vaccine Delivery System Ready
- 4 hours total training time
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations
DSHS
Mini-Training

Panelist

Megan Mace
Joint Training Specialist
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory Services Division

Samantha Chase
Joint Training Specialist
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory Services Division
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Christine Riley
Nurse III / Clinical Policy Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

• Questions from last week
COVID Q&A

Question:
Where do we request Abbott BinaxNOW cards for staff testing?

Answer:
Abbott BinaxNOW cards distributed through the US HHS’ initiative are sent to facilities based on the degree of community spread within the county where the facility is located, and are intended to support screening of NF staff to meet CMS requirements.

NFs below 5% positivity (green counties) will not receive tests through the federal distribution. (continued on next slide)
Facilities do not need to apply to receive test cards or POC devices; US HHS will ship the tests to facilities directly. See the US HHS website for more information.

Please note that testing supplies should be obtained through your normal distribution methods or directly from manufacturers. (cont. on next slide)
Answer (cont.):

Facilities unable to find testing supplies through their typical supply chain may contact their local health department.

The local health department will not be able to provide testing supplies, but may be able to assist in identifying alternative distributors or manufacturers.
COVID Q&A

**Question:**
Is there a licensing waiver in place for nursing facility administrators?

**Answer:**
There is not a waiver in place for obtaining an initial license, but there is a waiver in place for renewing a nursing facility administrator (NFA) license. A NFA with a license that expired on or after 03/13/2020 may continue to work with an expired license.

Read [PL 20-21 (PDF)](https://example.com/PL20-21) for details.
COVID Q&A

Question:
Does the CNA certification waiver apply to medication aides as well?

Answer:
No, the waiver for medication aides is a different than the CNA waiver. A medication aide that is lapsed or expired on or after 03/13/2020 may continue to work. A medication aide student may complete training online but is not eligible to work until they have passed the state exam.

Read PL 20-26 (PDF) for details.
Questions?

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

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Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
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