Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR and DSHS
February 10, 2021

For more information:
Email: LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov
Phone: 512-438-3161
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Catherine Anglin
Program Manager: NF and LSC
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations
DSHS
New Webinar Agenda

Webinars have replaced mini trainings with scenario-based guidance based on frequently asked questions and other topics related to COVID-19.
Reminder: HHSC COVID-19 Reporting

HHSC published PL 2021-04 to clarify HHSC COVID-19 reporting protocols.

Facilities are only required to report to HHSC within 24 hours of:

• a facility’s first positive case of COVID-19, or

• a new positive case of COVID-19 after a facility has been without a new case of COVID-19 (starting from the date of the positive test) for 14 days or more.

Do not report COVID-19 positive cases to HHSC outside of the two reportable events listed above.
Reminder: HHSC COVID-19 Reporting

Additionally, the reportable events listed above do not include a resident that was admitted to the facility with an active COVID-19 infection or a resident that developed COVID-19 within 14 days of being admitted to the facility.

HHSC LTCR Regional Offices may contact facilities to request information related to COVID-19 cases. Reporting to a LTCR Regional Office is not related to reporting COVID-19 positive cases to HHSC CII.
Reminder: HHSC COVID-19 Reporting

Please note that the triggering events for each federal and state COVID-19 reporting requirement may differ. Refer to PL 2020-37 and PL 2020-46 for other federal and state COVID-19 reporting requirements.
Reminder: HHSC COVID-19 Reporting - Example

Reportable to CII

- Jan 1: confirmed test result - NF’s first case of COVID-19
- January 31: confirmed test result - New case of COVID-19

Do not Report to CII

- Jan 4: confirmed test result in staff - Additional case of COVID-19
- Jan 15: confirmed test result - Additional case of COVID-19
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Robert Ochoa
Senior Policy Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation
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. The Valley (NF)
   Feb. 11, 2021; 1 - 2:30 p.m.
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.

2. Harris, Fort Bend, Montgomery, and Walker Counties
   Feb. 16, 2021; 1 - 2:30 p.m.
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.

3. The Panhandle
   Feb. 25, 2021; 1 - 2:30 p.m.
   Register for the COVID-19 webinar.
COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ


This FAQ provides information for FAQs related to:
• Vaccine Allocation and Distribution
• LTC Populations
• Vaccine Planning
• Vaccine Safety

The FAQs can be found on the Nursing Facility Provider Portal under “COVID-19 Resources”.

Free Learning Modules for Activity Directors

The Texas HHS Aging Service Coordination office announces 4, free learning modules for Activity Directors. The modules offer an overview of why volunteerism is an essential part of NF activity programming and how to create a comprehensive volunteer management system.

To access the courses, set up an account with a Username and password in the HHS Learning Portal.

• Log into your account and scroll to the courses organized under the Quality Monitoring Program section.
• Select the course by name: Long-term Caring Guide for Nursing Facility Volunteer Managers
Free Learning Modules for Activity Directors

The HHS Learning Portal provides detailed information for course navigation. Each module features learning challenges to help participants prepare for a final assessment after completing all four modules.

Upon passing the final assessment, participants receive a learning certificate with 4 CE credits for Texas Activity Directors (one per module).

NFs should review PL 2020-53 for guidance related to the use of volunteers in NFs.
LTC Vaccine Options

HHSC & DSHS published the Long-term Care COVID-19 Vaccination Options (attached as a handout).

Option 1:
Enroll as a Texas Vaccine Provider with DSHS to directly receive and administer the vaccine.

Option 2:
Partner with vaccinators with whom there is an existing vaccination relationship (i.e. for those who provide flu shots, shingles, etc., to the facility or group.)

Option 3:
Contact local vaccine providers to include local or regional health departments, EMS, or pharmacies.
LTC Vaccine Options

HHSC & DSHS published the Long-term Care COVID-19 Vaccination Options (attached as a handout).

Option 4:
If LTC’s are unable to find a solution or have questions an email can be sent to: Vaccine.LTCF@dshs.texas.gov

Subject Line: “LTC Unable to Find Vaccine Provider”

The state has limited vaccination capabilities beyond what is previously noted, however, will use this information in matching facilities when able.
Reminder: Persons Allowed to Enter a NF

A facility may only allow the following individuals to enter a NF:

• Individuals participating in a person visit, as allowed by the Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rule

• Providers of essential services, whose services are necessary for the health and safety of residents

• Persons with legal authority to enter--Law enforcement officers, representatives of the long-term care ombudsman's office, and government personnel performing their official duties.

(Cont. on next slide)
Reminder: Persons Allowed to Enter a NF

A facility cannot prohibit government personnel performing their official duty from entering the facility, unless the individual does not pass COVID-19 screening criteria.

COVID-19 screening criteria does not include providing a negative test result.

Government personnel includes:
• law enforcement officers
• representatives of the long-term care ombudsman's office
• government personnel performing their official duties, such as LTCR surveyors and DSHS HAI or Epi

(Cont. on next slide)
COVID-19 Screening criteria

• fever, defined as a temperature of 100.4 Fahrenheit and above;

• signs or symptoms of COVID-19, as outlined by the CDC;

• contact in the last 14 days with someone who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, is under investigation for COVID-19, or is ill with a respiratory illness, unless the visitor is seeking entry to provide critical assistance; or

• has a positive COVID-19 test result from a test performed in the last 10 days.

(Cont. on next slide)
Reminder: Persons Allowed to Enter a NF

Government personnel are not included as facility staff under CMS testing requirements, and therefore are not required to be tested with NF staff.

Additionally, government personnel are also not subject to the testing requirements applied to Essential caregivers and Salon Service Providers under the Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rule.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

Scenario-based information
Scenario #1

End-of-Life Visits
End-of-Life Visits

End-of-Life visits must be allowed...

• **In all nursing facilities** – regardless of COVID-19 presence in the facility or in the community

• **For any resident at end-of-life** – regardless of that resident’s COVID-19 status.
End-of-Life Visitors – How Many Visitors?

NFs may limit the number of visitors who visit at a single time.

However, residents have the right to receive visitors and the facility must make all efforts to accommodate visitors the resident wishes to receive.

Facilities will need to determine how best to accommodate end-of-life visits to allow for cleaning and sanitization, physical distancing, or other requirements in rule.
End-of-Life Visitors – How Many Visitors?

To ensure all necessary protocol and sanitation occurs, the facility should work with the resident and family to determine how best to accommodate the resident’s wishes.
End-of-Life Visit Example

Resident has 7 family members that would like to participate in end-of-life visits.

NF has enough space to accommodate a large group on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Resident’s family all visit the resident on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, since that’s when the family is available.
End-of-Life Visit Example

Resident has 7 family members that would like to participate in end-of-life visits.

NF does not have enough space to accommodate a larger group while also ensuring IPC measures.

NF and resident’s family decide on a schedule that works for everyone by visiting in smaller groups.

- John and Mary visit Mondays (AM) and Wednesdays (PM)
- Stacy and Maddie visit on Tuesdays (AM) and Saturdays
- Greg and Sue’s family visits on Wednesdays (PM) and Sundays
End-of-Life Visit Example

Resident has 7 family members that would like to participate in end-of-life visits.

Resident’s family has differing schedules, but would like to visit together, if possible.

NF can accommodate large groups on Mondays.

NF encourages resident’s family to visit anytime between 8am and 8pm on Mondays, with individual visits on other days as available.

John and Mary are with the resident all day on Mondays.

Stacy and Maddie visit Monday afternoons after work and school.

Greg visits during Monday lunch and returns with the rest of his family in the afternoon.
End-of-Life Visit Scheduling

The examples provided are not the only ways that end-of-life visits can or should be scheduled.

Scheduling visits should be collaborative between the NF, the resident, and the resident’s visitors.
End-of-Life Visits – Visitor Protocol

Visitor COVID-19 Status

A resident can have end-of-life visits, no matter their COVID-19 status.

However, visitors may not participate in end-of-life visits if they have an active COVID-19 infection.

End-of-life visitors are not required to be tested before a visit, but must pass screening.
End-of-Life Visits – Visitor Protocol

Visit Location

End-of-life visits can take place:
• In the resident’s room, or
• Other area of the facility separated from other residents.

Note that the NF must limit a visitor’s movement through the facility to limit interaction with other residents and staff.

End-of-life visits are not required to be monitored by staff.
End-of-Life Visits – Visitor Protocol

**Physical Distancing & PPE**

End-of-life visits do not require that residents and visitors maintain physical distance.

Visitors must maintain physical distancing between themselves and all other residents and staff.

Visitors must wear a facemask over their nose and mouth throughout the entire visit.

For residents with unknown COVID-19 status or positive COVID-19 status, visitors should wear all PPE recommended by the CDC.
End-of-Life Visit - Resources

For questions related to end-of-life visits, please reference:

• *Nursing Facility COVID-19 Expansion of Reopening Visitation Emergency Rule*
• *PL 2020-44*
• *NF Response Plan*
• *CMS QSO 20-39*
Scenario #2

Quarantine Protocol for staff member who has:

• Been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and
• Been exposed to COVID-19
Quarantine Protocol After Vaccine

A facility staff member who:

• Received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and

• Had unprotected exposure to a person who tested positive for COVID-19 should be excluded from work and follow CDC’s guidance on when to quarantine.

The only exception would be if the staff member tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days and has fully recovered. See CDC’s guidance, when to quarantine.
Quarantine Protocol After Vaccine

If a fully vaccinated staff member presents with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, they should also be excluded from work, pending testing and/or evaluation for possible COVID-19 infection.
Quarantine Protocol After Vaccine

The CDC has not provided different guidance for fully vaccinated individuals.

Fully COVID-19 vaccinated individuals must still follow the same
• Quarantine,
• Testing, and
• Other infection prevention and control protocol

As those who have not been vaccinated
CDC’s When to Quarantine

Who needs to Quarantine?

People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19—excluding people who have had COVID-19 and recovered within the past 90 days.

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. People who develop symptoms again within 90 days of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.

From CDC’s When to Quarantine
CDC’s mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

Public health recommendations for vaccinated persons

Given the currently limited information on how much the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may reduce transmission in the general population and how long protection lasts, vaccinated persons should continue to follow all current guidance to protect themselves and others.

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Public health recommendations for vaccinated persons (Cont.)

This includes:

• wearing a facemask
• staying at least 6 feet away from others
• avoiding crowds
• Performing hand hygiene often
• following [CDC travel guidance](#)
• following quarantine guidance after an exposure to someone with COVID-19, and any applicable workplace guidance, including guidance related to personal protective equipment use or COVID-19 testing

From [CDC’s mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
DSHS COVID-19 FAQs

Will the immunity after getting COVID-19 last longer than the protection provided by the vaccine?

We are still learning about how long a recovered person is protected by “natural immunity.” Early evidence suggests that immunity after having COVID-19 may not last very long.

We also don’t know yet how long the vaccines’ protection lasts, called “vaccine-induced immunity.” CDC and DSHS will keep the public informed as more information becomes available.
Will vaccines prevent people from getting and spreading COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccines are new and are still being evaluated. Some COVID-19 vaccines may prevent severe illness, while others may prevent people from getting COVID-19 altogether. Others may be effective to prevent spreading COVID-19. CDC and DSHS will keep the public informed as they learn more.

From DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs
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 https://www.facebook.com/texasltcombudsman?f ref-ts
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
Upcoming Webinars

**Topic:** Point of Care Test (POCT) Reporting Tool for COVID-19 – Updates

- **Date:** Thursday, Feb 11, 2021  
  **Time:** 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET
- **Date:** Friday, Feb 12, 2021  
  **Time:** 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Register in advance for these webinars:  
[https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_dp03SRQnSYeOfcBFy2CAmQexternal_icon](https://cdc.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_dp03SRQnSYeOfcBFy2CAmQexternal_icon)

**Please note the webinars have the same link. Attendees will be able to choose which session they are able to attend. All webinars are identical in content, so please plan to attend once.**
New LTC module COVID-19- Resident Therapeutics

- COVID-19 Resident Therapeutics Form (57.158) [PDF – 100 KB] (print-only) – February 4, 2021
- Table of Instructions (57.158) [PDF – 320 KB] – February 4, 2021
- Please note that “leaving the questions in blank” will be considered missing data.
New LTC module COVID 19- Resident Therapeutics

Started on 2/1/2021

There is a new element on the calendar: Therapeutics
Report total counts for the below questions only **one calendar day during the reporting week** and include only **new counts** since the previously reported counts.
If the count is zero, a "0" must be entered as the response. A blank response is equivalent to missing data.

*For each therapeutic listed, enter number of residents who received the therapeutic at this facility or elsewhere during the reporting week:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapeutic</th>
<th>How many residents were treated from stock stored at this facility?</th>
<th>How many residents were treated from stock that was stored at another facility, such as an infusion center?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamlanivimab (Lilly)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casirivimab/imdevimab (Regeneron)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NHSN Updates

• Resident Impact and Facility Capacity
• Importing Data Resources
  • How to Upload COVID-19 CSV Data Files
  • Resident Therapeutics Template = Individual
  • Resident Therapeutics Template = Group
• https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html

• New Archived Training: Point of Care Test Reporting Tool – February, 2021
NHSN Updates

• SAMS will be sending out bulk emails to individuals that have previously uploaded documents to SAMS but their invitation has expired.

• This email should explain that they do not need to upload their documents again.

• Any individual that has been terminated out of SAMs due to not uploading their documents will receive a new invite.
NHSN SAMS Updates, continued...

- SAMS has a backlogged list of people that accepted the Rules of Behavior but have not received the “Invitation to SAMS” email.

- These individuals should receive this invitation from SAMS this week or next.

- Individuals will need to read their emails carefully to make sure the email is actually for them and not the previous person with the generic email. Ex: don@NursingHome.com

- NHSN is also highly recommending that each person use a personalized email addresses. Ex: melody.malone@tmf.org
NHSN Updates

Important Notes:

• If a facility is unable to do their weekly **COVID-19 reporting**, send a helpdesk ticket to NHSN with the subject line:

  “No weekly reporting available on calendar.”

• If a facility is unable to report **POC testing** results in the POC test reporting tool due to an error message, send in a helpdesk ticket to NHSN with the subject line:

  “Error in Database Possible Defect.”

• E-mail user support at: [nhsn@cdc.gov](mailto:nhsn@cdc.gov)
Importance of having multiple users in NHSN

- Ensures that the facility will remain compliant in reporting if staff are out sick or away from the facility.

- Each user should **log in monthly** to keep their account active.

*Having a backup “User” is crucial!*
NHSN RESOURCES

• See TMF resources here: NHSN Resources

• CDC NHSN FAQ: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ltc/ltcf-faqs-508.pdf

• CDC NHSN COVID19 Module: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html

• Details on SAMS Level 3: SAMS Level Three Access

• NHSN website changes: LTC Website Refresh Walk-through
CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management Learning

- **Available through the [CMS Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP)](https://www.cms.gov).*
- **Can be completed on a cell phone**
- **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**
Reach out to us at:

nhnetwork@tmf.org

to submit requests for assistance with NHSN reporting problems or quality improvement assistance.
Questions?

For more information:
Email: LTCRPolicy@hhs.texas.gov
Phone: 512-438-3161
Thank you!

For more information:
Email: LTCSRPolicy@hhs.Texas.gov
Phone: 512-438-3161