Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR and DSHS
January 20, 2021

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
Vaccine Reporting Emergency Rule

HHSC issued a new emergency rule on January 11th.

The emergency rule requires NFs to report COVID-19 vaccination data to HHSC within 24 hours of:

• Administering COVID-19 vaccines OR
• Receiving COVID-19 vaccines from another source (i.e. pharmacy or other facility)

COVID-19 vaccine data must be reported to this online survey.

See PL 2021-01 and the COVID-19 Vaccination Reporting Emergency Rule
Facilities must report the following data to HHSC within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations:

- Aggregate numbers of staff, incl. employees, contractors, and volunteers, who received first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine (or only dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine when available);
- Aggregate numbers of staff, incl. employees, contractors, and volunteers, who received their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine;
- Aggregate numbers of residents who received first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine or only dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine when available; and
Vaccine Reporting Emergency Rule

Facilities must report the following data to HHSC within 24 hours of completing a round of vaccinations:

• Aggregate numbers of residents, who received their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

Do not include information from a previously submitted report. Reports should only include the numbers from a round of vaccination.

(Cont. on next slide)
NEW Vaccine Reporting Emergency Rule

A “round” of vaccination indicates any instance a COVID-19 vaccine dose is given to a staff or resident.

For staff that receive a vaccine from an outside source (i.e. from their doctor’s office), the facility should report within 24 hours of being informed of the employee’s vaccination.
Clarification: Vaccine Reporting Rule

Facilities that received/administered COVID-19 vaccines before January 11th must submit vaccine reporting data as soon as possible.

This includes facilities that reported vaccine data on the voluntary survey issued January 5th/6th.

(Cont. on next slide)
NEW Vaccine Reporting Emergency Rule

Additional Guidance:

• For providers with multiple locations/facility types, submit a separate survey for each location/facility type.
• Only complete a survey if there has been vaccination activity
• Use physical address of the facility in reports, not mailing or corporate address.
# Vaccine Reporting Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting to...</th>
<th>...is....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HHSC via new emergency rules</td>
<td>Required for all NFs and ALFs <em>under all circumstances</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHSN</td>
<td>Voluntary for any LTCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ImmTrac</td>
<td>Only required for facilities that are a vaccine provider. Facilities that are vaccinated through a pharmacy or other outside agency <em>do not</em> report to ImmTrac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Health Department</td>
<td>Dependent on a facility’s local health department requirements</td>
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</table>
Vaccine Contact Information

NFs who registered for the Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program can send questions related to vaccine distribution/administration to:

• **CVS:**
  833-968-1756
  CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com

• **Walgreens:**
  immunizeLTC@walgreens.com
Vaccine Contact Information

NFs who are unsure if they were enrolled in the Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program can send questions to:

- The CDC at eocevent494@cdc.gov or
- DSHS at Vaccine.LTCF@dshs.texas.gov.

HHSC cannot confirm which facilities are enrolled in the Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program or which pharmacy a facility was matched to.
Facilities who were unable to be enrolled in the Pharmacy Partnership LTC Program are advised to:

• Register to become a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider. Please note that facilities must meet certain equipment and other requirements to be approved.

• Contact your local health department to determine other options for vaccination in your area.

• Work with local pharmacies that may have available vaccine supply.
Visitation Rule Overview

Visitation Required in all Facilities regardless of presence of COVID-19 in the facility or community

For Any COVID-19 status:
• Essential caregiver visits (Except residents with an active COVID-19 infection)
• End-of-life visits
• Closed window visits
Visitation Rule Overview

**Visitation Required in NFs:**
- with a Visitation Designation
- in a county with a COVID-19 positivity rate of **10% or less**

**For COVID-19 Negative Residents:**
- Open window visits
- Vehicle Parades
- Outdoor Visits
- Indoor Plexiglass Visits
Visitation Rule Overview

Visitation Required in NFs:

• Visitation designation not required*

• with a Visitation Designation**

• in a county with a greater than 10% COVID-19 positivity rate

For Any COVID Status:

• Essential Caregiver* (Except residents with an active COVID-19 infection)

• End-of-life*

• Closed Window*

For COVID-19 Negative Residents:

• Outdoor Visits**
Visitation Reminders

All NFs must still allow essential caregiver visitation for COVID-19 negative and unknown COVID-19 residents, even after an outbreak.

NFs with a Visitation Designation must allow all applicable forms of visitation, even in the event of an outbreak in the COVID-19 positive and unknown COVID-19 cohorts.

See PL 2020-44 for more information.
Visitation Reminders

Testing strategies for essential caregivers and salon service providers are not required to be at the same frequency as staff testing requirements.

NFs may set testing frequencies at the same rate as staff testing requirements, but may not make testing requirements so restrictive as to prevent essential caregivers from visiting residents.
COVID-19 Testing

The Texas Division of Emergency Management created a webpage to locate testing centers throughout the state.

You can find the interactive map with [this link](http://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/)

The interactive map can also be found at [http://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/](http://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/).
Visitation Reminders

Essential caregiver requirements, as described in the NF visitation emergency rules, are in-line with CMS’ “compassionate care” visits as described in QSO-20-39.

Consequently, facilities will be adhering to both state and federal requirements by ensuring that essential caregiver visits are available to all residents who do not have an active COVID-19 infection.

See PL 2020-44 and the state and CMS visitation guidance table for more information.
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.
Reminder

Sign-up for Gov Delivery
To sign-up for Alerts:

• Go to: https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHHSC/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.
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. January 21, 2021; 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. 
Register for the COVID-19 webinar.
The CDC issued a COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit for long-term care facilities.

The toolkit includes information for residents and staff, FAQs, and tools for LTCFs to use in monitoring side effects.

See [Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination at Your Facility](#) for more information.
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
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

Panelist

Cindy Crim
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:
If someone receives a COVID-19 vaccine, will it cause a false positive if the vaccinated person is tested for COVID. Should we still test staff members who have been vaccinated?

Answer:
According to the CDC’s Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel, COVID-19 vaccination does NOT influence the results of COVID-19 antigen tests or PCR tests. However, there is a possibility that a vaccinated individual may test positive on some antibody tests. (Cont. on next slide)
Answer (cont.):

Staff or residents who have received the COVID-19 vaccine and later have a positive antigen or PCR test should follow the same precautions as others who have tested positive for COVID-19 via antigen or PCR test. Staff should isolate until they meet the return to work criteria and residents should be placed on transmission-based precautions in the hot unit or COVID-19 isolation area.

At this time, testing recommendations and requirements for long-term care facilities have not changed. For the time being, Nursing Facilities (NFs) should continue to refer to QSO 20-38 for nursing facility testing requirements. (Cont. on next slide)
COVID Q&A

Answer (cont.):

CMS has not changed their guidance on testing for those who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

We are eagerly awaiting more guidance from CDC, DSHS, and CMS regarding how the COVID-19 vaccine affects transmission of the virus, and how that may affect current infection control and prevention strategies, such as testing recommendations and requirements. We will update all long-term care providers with any changes as soon as possible. (Cont. on next slide)
After long-term care facility healthcare personnel are vaccinated, should they continue regular COVID-19 testing?

Yes, facilities should continue to follow recommendations for COVID-19 testing in nursing homes. Experts need to understand more about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide before deciding to change recommendations on steps everyone should take to slow the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19. (Cont. on next slide)
COVID Q&A

Answer (cont.):

COVID-19 vaccination will not influence the results of viral (nucleic acid or antigen) COVID-19 tests. Positive tests should not be attributed to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Please see the CDC’s Facts about Vaccination and Testing Residents- Interim COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for Nursing Home Residents and Healthcare Personnel for more information.
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
January 21st – TMF LTC Connect:

Get the Facts About COVID Vaccination

• Dr. Russell Kohl MD, FAAP will present information on the COVID Vaccine and be available for Q & A.

• Both an Administrator and a resident about their path to the vaccine.

• Link to the webinar registration: https://tmf.webex.com/tmf/onstage/g.php?MTID=e1fdec197861d5d7fe6990c9d010dfd9
CDC COVID-19 Module Website

• Master Website:
  https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html

• How To Add A User:

• How To Re-Assign NHSN Facility Administrator:
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7-3d0uIIVk
CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Nursing Home Staff & Management Learning

• Available through the CMS Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP).
• 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: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161
Thank you!

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