Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR and DSHS

July 23, 2020

For more information:

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Cecilia Cavuto, MSML
NF, ICF & LSC Policy and Rule Manager
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

- Introduction and overview
- Reminders and updates

COVID-19 Q&A

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."

Reminder

Death Reporting Requirements

Nursing facilities must report:

- Any resident death that happen in the facility or of residents who die within 24 hours of transfer to a hospital. The facility must report these deaths to HHSC via TULIP within 10 working days of the last day of the month in which a death occurs.

- All deaths under unusual circumstances to Complaint and Incident Intake within 24 hours. See PL 19-16.

  Note: If the death may have been from abuse, neglect or exploitation, more reporting requirements exist.

Coming Soon

Version 3.2
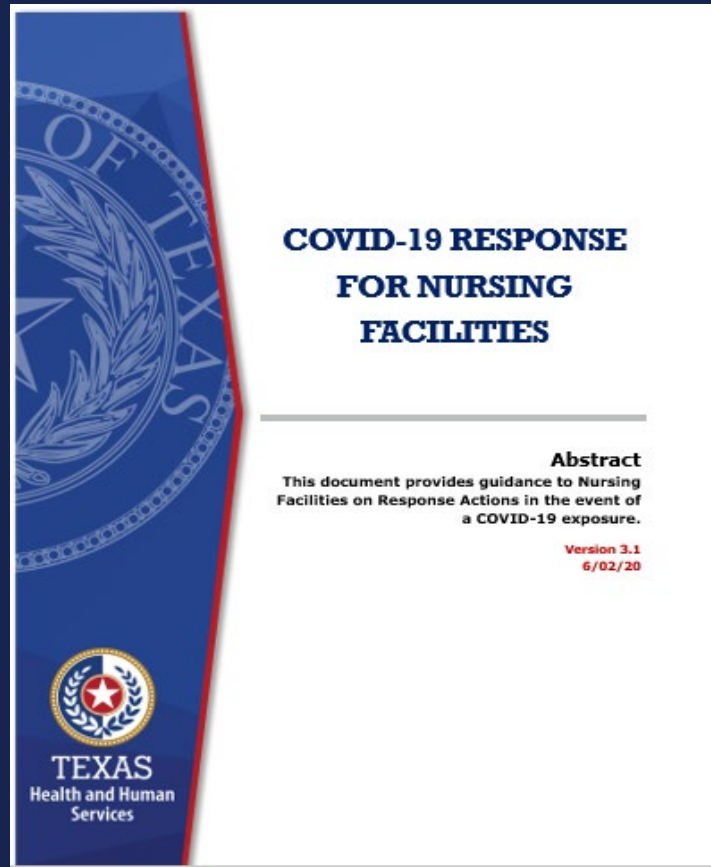### COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities

PPE Infection Control Basics Webinar

Prevent or minimize the spread of infectious disease by using PPE. During this webinar:

- Review standard and transmission-based precautions

- Learn proper hand hygiene techniques

- Demonstrate how to utilize PPE

- Discuss the importance of social distancing in an outbreak situation

- July 24: 3:00 p.m.
  Register for the webinar here.
- July 31: 10:00 a.m.
  Register for the webinar here.

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Emergency Preparedness for Long Term Care Facilities Webinars

- July 27: 9:00 a.m.
  [Register for the webinar here.](#)

- July 29: 1:00 p.m.
  [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Nursing Facilities in Surging Areas

This webinar informs and prepares nursing homes in areas of Texas where COVID-19 is surging. During the webinar we will:

- Review area specific data, community and area resources.

- Highlight specifics of the Nursing Facility COVID-19 Response Plan.

- Discuss the importance of identifying the root cause of COVID-19 spread in a facility.

- Share useful examples from other nursing homes and tips that you can use in your response to the pandemic.

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Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Nursing Facilities in Surging Areas

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Dallas and Surrounding Areas (NF) July 24, 1:30-2:30 p.m. CDT

Register for Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Dallas

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Cameron County and Surrounding Areas (NF) July 23, 10-11 a.m. CDT

Register for Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Cameron County

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Travis County and Surrounding Areas (NF) July 23, noon -1 p.m. CDT

Register for Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Travis County

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in El Paso County (NF)

July 24, noon-1 p.m. CDT (11 a.m. – noon, El Paso time)

Register for Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in El Paso County

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Harris County and Surrounding Areas (NF) July 23, 4 - 5 p.m.

Register for Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Harris County

COVID-19 Q&A

Staff Breaks

Provide dedicated areas within the isolation area for HCW and staff use, including break rooms, medication rooms, and supply rooms.

COVID-19 Q&A

Breaks Continued…

Provide separate spaces to don (put on) and doff (take off) PPE when possible.

When a single area is provided for donning and doffing PPE, these principals should be followed:

- Provide for hand hygiene and adequate disposal of used PPE in the donning and doffing area

- Only donning or doffing should occur at any given time – do not perform these activities at the same time

- Only two people should be in the area at any time - use the buddy system to assure that donning and doffing is done correctly

COVID-19 Q&A

Screening at Entrances

- Post signs at the entrances to the facility advising visitors to check-in with the front desk to be assessed for symptoms prior to entry.

- Screen visitors for fever (T≥100.0°F), [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](), or known exposure to someone with COVID-19. Restrict anyone with fever, symptoms, or known exposure from entering the facility.

COVID-19 Q&A

Screening Staff

- Screen all HCP at the beginning of their shift for fever and symptoms of COVID-19. Actively take their temperature* and document absence of [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](). If they are ill, have them keep their cloth face covering or facemask on and leave the workplace.

- *Fever is either measured temperature >100.0ºF or subjective fever. Note that fever may be intermittent or may not be present in some individuals, such as those who are elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain medications (e.g., NSAIDs). Clinical judgement should be used to guide testing of individuals in such situations.

- HCP who work in multiple locations may pose higher risk and should be encouraged to tell facilities if they have had exposure to other facilities with recognized COVID-19 cases.

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COVID-19 Q&A

Supporting Residents

Below are some ideas on how to keep in touch, and ways of supporting communication between residents and their families:

TECHNOLOGY for more frequent video chats, emails, text messages, and phone calls.

We are teaching residents to use video chat applications (such as Skype and FaceTime) and will help read emails or texts on personal devices if needed.

CARDS AND LETTERS with messages of support and updates on family members.

We are supplying paper, pens, envelopes and postage for residents to easily reply. If needed, we will write replies dictated by residents.

RECORDED VIDEO MESSAGES to share via email or text message, if live-video chatting is not feasible.

We will help record outgoing messages and share incoming messages with residents.

VISUALS TO EXPRESS CARE. For example, ribbons around trees or benches, planting flowers outside, or outdoor posters and banners to show support.

We will work to designate areas to place these visuals and safely take residents outside to show them these symbols of your support.

CARE PACKAGES that could include items such as photographs, cards, drawings, snacks, and entertainment (such as books, magazines, and puzzles).

We will establish a system for care package drop-offs that is safe and does not require entry into the facility.

DEDICATIONS on the in-house cable channel and intercom system.

We can 'dedicate' songs or share anecdotes via the intercom prior to broadcasting a movie or playing music. If your loved one has a favorite song, poem, movie or television show, please let us know.

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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

- Updates
- NF Surges

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

- Updates

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.

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

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

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Michael Gayle
Deputy Associate Commissioner of Policy, Rules, and Training
Regulatory Services Division – Long Term Care Regulation
Health & Human Services Commission

- Updates

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and
Local Health Operations
DSHS

COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

If the lab tells us a test is inconclusive, and we get clarification from them that this means they had a very small amount of COVID-19 in the sample but not enough to be positive and too much to be negative, which zone do we put them in?

COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Can KN95 masks that are not NIOSH approved be used in COVID negative facilities?

COVID-19 Q&A

Training

Samantha Chase
Joint Training Specialist
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory
Services Division

Sheri Mead

Nurse III

Quality Monitoring Program

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Cecilia Cavuto, MSML
NF, ICF & LSC Policy and Rule Manager
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

- Questions from last week

Questions?

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

Thank you!

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