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Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR
and DSHS
July 30, 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.

- **July 30:** COVID-19 Knowledge for the Front Line Staff
- **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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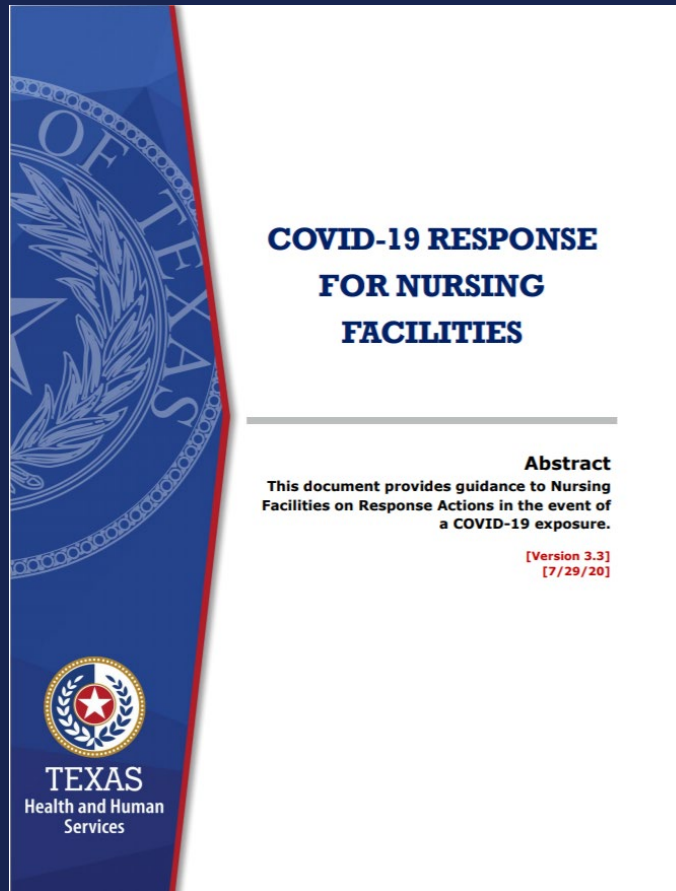
July 29 Updates

Version 3.3

COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities



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COVID-19 RESPONSE FOR NURSING FACILITIES

Abstract

This document provides guidance to Nursing Facilities on Response Actions in the event of a COVID-19 exposure.

[Version 3.3]
[7/29/20]

July 29 Updates

Updates include:

- Updated Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 cases
- Clarification that health care workers not work with more than one cohort of residents (based on COVID-19 status)



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Updated Guidelines: Resident Isolation

For residents who are confirmed COVID-19 positive, use the following timeframes for discontinuing transmission-based precautions:

- 3 Requirements:
 - **10 days** since start of symptoms, or first positive test for asymptomatic, (**20 days** for severe/critical illness or the severely immunocompromised)
AND
 - **24 hours** have passed since last fever (without fever-reducing medications)
AND
 - Symptoms have improved

[See CDC Guidance](#)



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Updated Guidelines: Staff Return to Work

For staff with confirmed COVID-19, return to work criteria match the timeframes for resident isolation:

- 3 Requirements:
 - **10 days** since start of symptoms, or first positive test for asymptomatic, (**20 days** for severe/critical illness or the severely immunocompromised)
AND
 - **24 hours** have passed since last fever (without fever-reducing medications)
AND
 - Symptoms have improved

[See CDC Guidance](#)



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Guidelines: Resident Quarantine

For residents who are probable of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, use the following timeframes:

- Resident should be quarantined for 14 days (this timeframe has not changed)



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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 31: 10:00 a.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)



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Updated Guidelines for Reporting Cases of COVID-19

Effective immediately, nursing facility providers must:

- Report **the first confirmed case** of COVID-19 in staff or residents as a self-reported incident.
- Report **the first new case of COVID-19 after a facility has been without cases for 14 days or more** as a self-reported incident.
- [Notify HHSC through TULIP](#) or by calling Complaint and Incident Intake at 800-458-9858.

Do not report subsequent cases and addendums to HHSC.



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Updated Guidelines for Reporting Cases of COVID-19

NFs are also required to report communicable diseases, including COVID-19, to the health authority with jurisdiction over their facility. This is in accordance with the Communicable Disease and Prevention Act, Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81. It's also specified in Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 97.

[Email questions to Policy, Rules and Training](#) or call 512-438-3161.



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CMS Testing Requirements

Recent announcements from U.S. HHS & CMS regarding COVID-19 testing:

- U.S. HHS announced a one-time procurement of rapid point-of-care testing kits and tests targeted specifically to hot spots. [See Press Release](#)
- CMS will begin to require NF in states with a 5% or greater positivity rate to test all nursing home staff each week. [See Press Release](#)
- Per DSHS, Texas currently had a 10% positivity rate as of July 27.
- [See CMS Q&A:COVID-19 Testing in NF](#)



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

- Updates



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

- Updates



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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>

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and
Local Health Operations
DSHS

- Updates



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Mini Training

Panelists

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

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



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

- Questions from last week



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

With the CDC change in isolation being moved from 14 days to 10 days, does this reduce the amount of time a resident would need to be quarantined upon admission? Does that align with a 10 day window or remain at 14 days?

Answer:

Quarantine is 14 days, based on the incubation period of the infection (time from exposure to disease onset)

Isolation is at least 10 days, based on how long the disease is infectious once it has started

[See CDC Guidance](#)



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COVID-19 Q&A



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COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation

QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.



If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19



- Stay home until 14 days after your last contact.



- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.



- If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.



ISOLATION keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home.



If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19



- Stay home until after
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
 - Symptoms have improved



If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms



- Stay home until after
 - 10 days have passed since your positive test



If you live with others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people or animals, including pets. Use a separate bathroom, if available.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID-19-Quarantine-vs-Isolation.pdf>

COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

If no deaths in a month, does a report still need to be opened in TULIP?

Answer:

No, only actual deaths need to be reported via TULIP



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Can we get a contact person and email for TULIP assistance?

Answer:

TULIP support can be reached at TULIP_Support@hhsc.state.tx.us

If you have licensing related questions regarding TULIP you can email: LTC_NF_DAHS_Licensing@hhsc.state.tx.us



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

If a facility has been designated to admit COVID positive patients does the entire facility need to be a COVID isolation facility or can separate halls/units be designated for COVID admissions?

Answer:

A facility can and should designate separate halls/units for admissions of COVID positive residents. A nursing home can accept a resident diagnosed with COVID-19 and those still under transmission based precautions for COVID-19 as long as the facility can follow CDC guidance for transmission-based precautions. If a nursing home cannot, it must wait until these precautions are discontinued. See CMS [QSO-20-14-NH](#) for details.



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Questions?

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Thank you!

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