Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTSCR and DSHS
March 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
Long-term Care Regulation
Visitation, Activities, & Dining Survey

HHSC is asking NFs to complete a short survey about:

• Communal dining, group activities and visitation
• Your best practices for keeping people safe while socializing during COVID-19
• Using technology to foster communication between residents and families and
• Your best practices for increasing social stimulation.

HHSC will use this feedback to identify implementation concerns and evolving needs and inform future rules and initiatives. The survey closes Monday March 15. You can take the survey here.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Valerie Krueger
MH PASRR Specialist
IDD Services
Emergency Rules for Local Authorities

The new emergency rules in 26 TAC 339(A) for local authorities (LA) were filed with the Office of the Texas Secretary of State effective Feb. 24, 2021 and removes the language that nursing facilities must submit every new admission as an exempted hospital discharge.
NFs should continue to follow the directives outlined in Information Letter No. 20-41, Sept. 29, 2020. which states beginning October 1, 2020:

• All positive PL1s must be submitted into the LTC portal using the appropriate admission category as required by 40 TAC, Chapter 19 Subchapter BB

• LAs are expected to complete PASRR Evaluations (PE) and Resident Reviews (RR) within the required 7-day time frame from the time an alert is received
The Emergency Rule allows LAs to complete PASRR Evaluations by telephone or video conferencing rather than face to face.

For PE completions, the NF should:
  - Assist a resident with a telephone or videoconference call with the LA
  - Collect and fax medical records to the LA

IDT meetings, Quarterly SPT meetings and LA Update meetings may be held via telephone or teleconferencing and documented as such on the PASRR Comprehensive Service Plan (PCSP).
Information Letter
No. 20-41

• Some PASRR specialized services provided by the LA, may be provided via telephone or teleconference, if appropriate.

• When a NF or LA cannot initiate or continue PASRR specialized services due to the current COVID-19 public health emergency, both the NF and the LA must document on the PCSP:
  o Specialized services that will be delayed.
  o Reasons why the services will be delayed.
  o Expected timeline for initiating or resuming the specialized services.
Link to the Information Letter

HHSC PASRR Contact Information

PASRR.Support@hhsc.state.tx.us
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Christine Riley
Nurse III/Clinical Policy Specialist
Policy & Rules
Long-term Care Regulation

Quarantine Guidance
Quarantine Guidance in NFs

The following slides cover information found in the two handouts included during this webinar.

See handouts titled:
“Quarantine Decision Tree_Residents”
“Quarantine Decision Tree_NF Staff”
Quarantine Guidance for Residents

Residents are considered Unknown COVID-19 status if the resident:

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

Residents that have Unknown COVID-19 status are generally required to quarantine. There are some exceptions.

(Cont. on next slide)
Quarantine Guidance for Residents

According to recent CDC guidance, LTC residents who have been fully vaccinated should still quarantine after exposure to COVID-19.

They are an exception to the quarantine exemptions for fully vaccinated individuals in the general public because the vaccine effectiveness is unknown in the LTC resident population, there is higher risk of severe disease and death, and there are challenges with social distancing in healthcare settings.
Quarantine Guidance for Residents

(cont.): Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.

If they experience symptoms, they should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing for COVID-19, if indicated.
Quarantine Guidance for Residents

Has the resident recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days by meeting the CDC’s criteria to discontinue transmission based precautions AND does the resident remain asymptomatic?

**Yes:** Per CDC guidance, those who have recovered from COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days AND remain asymptomatic do NOT need to quarantine.

**No:** Has the resident been fully vaccinated against COVID-19?

(cont. on next slide)
Quarantine Guidance for Residents

Has the resident been fully **vaccinated** against COVID-19?

*(Fully vaccinated = at least 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or at least 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)*

**Yes:** Is the facility experiencing a significant staffing shortage?

**No:** Quarantine per CDC guidance, [When to Quarantine & COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

(cont. on next slide)
Quarantine Guidance for Residents

Is the facility experiencing a significant staffing shortage?

**Yes**: The facility may consider waiving quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated residents during critical staffing shortages.

**No**: Quarantine per CDC guidance, [When to Quarantine & COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
Quarantine Guidance for NF Staff

A staff member who has had **unprotected exposure** or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive, or who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting test results is generally required to quarantine. There are some exceptions.

*See [Potential Exposure at Work](#) to assess risk exposure in Residents that have

*(Cont. on next slide)*
Quarantine Guidance for NF Staff

According to recent CDC guidance, fully vaccinated healthcare personnel may be exempt from quarantine as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages.

Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing for COVID-19, if indicated.
Has the staff member **recovered** from COVID-19 in the last 90 days by meeting the [CDC’s Return to Work Criteria](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/impacted-workplaces/return-to-work.html) AND does the staff member remain asymptomatic?

**Yes:** Per [CDC guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/impacted-workplaces/return-to-work.html), those who have recovered from COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days AND remain asymptomatic do NOT need to quarantine.

**No:** Has the staff member been fully **vaccinated** against COVID-19?

(cont. on next slide)
Quarantine Guidance for NF Staff

Has the staff member been fully vaccinated against COVID-19?  
(Fully vaccinated = at least 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or at least 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)

**Yes**: Is the facility experiencing a significant staffing shortage?  
(cont. on next slide)

**No**: Quarantine per CDC guidance, [When to Quarantine](#) & [COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
Quarantine Guidance for NF Staff

Is the facility experiencing a significant staffing shortage?

**Yes**: The facility may consider waiving quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated staff during critical staffing shortages.

**No**: Quarantine per CDC guidance, *When to Quarantine* & *COVID-19 Vaccines*.
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

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
New NHSN Alerts

NHSN - National Healthcare Safety Network

NHSN Home
- Alerts
- Dashboard
- Reporting Plan
- Resident
- Event
- Summary Data
- COVID-19
- Vaccination Summary
- Import/Export
- Surveys
- Analysis
- Users
- Facility
- Group
- Logout

NHSN Long Term Care Facility Component Home Page

- Long Term Care Dashboard

Action Items

COMPLETE THESE ITEMS
- Confer Rights
  - Not Accepted

ALERTS
- COVID-19 Data Alerts
1. Completing “Confer Rights Not Accepted” Alert:

2. Please Confer Rights to TMF – See the handout. This will allow us to help you more effectively when we are working with you. Thanks!
NHSN Quality Assurance (QA) Alert
QA Alert identified on Module

Resident Impact and Facility Capacity

Date Created: 08/07/2020 1:00PM

Counts should be reported on the correct calendar day and include only the new counts for the calendar day (specifically, since counts were last collected). If the count is zero, a "0" must entered as the response. A blank response is equivalent to missing data. NON-count questions should be answered one calendar day during the reporting week.

Facility Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>110</th>
<th>ALL BEDS (enter on first survey only, unless the total bed count has changed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>CURRENT CENSUS: Total number of beds that are occupied on the reporting calendar day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resident Impact for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

| 1 | ADMISSIONS: Number of residents admitted or readmitted from another facility who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and continue to require transmission-based precautions. Excludes recovered residents. |
| **QA Alert** |  |
| POSITIVE TESTS (previously called "Confirmed"): Number of residents newly positive for COVID-19 based on a viral test result. |
| **TEST TYPE**: Based on the number of reported Positive Tests, indicate how many were tested using each of the following: |
| **Positive SARS-CoV-2 antigen test only [no other testing performed]** |  |
| **Positive SARS-CoV-2 NAAT (PCR) [no other testing performed]** |  |
| **Positive SARS-CoV-2 antigen test and negative SARS-CoV-2 NAAT (PCR)** |  |
Adding Rights to enter POC data

- Using the Users Tab
- Click on Find, enter users name and locate the user profile.
- Click on Edit at the bottom of the profile.
- Click on Edit rights and verify or add the following rights
  - Staff/Visitors: Add, edit, delete
  - Staff/Visitors: View
## NHSN Users Rights for POC Data Reporting

### Rights for Long Term Care Facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rights</th>
<th>Long Term Care Facility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Rights</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analyze Data</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add, Edit, Delete</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Data</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff/Visitor - Add, Edit, Delete</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff/Visitor - View</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Customize Rights

- Effective Rights
- Save
- Back

[Advanced]
**NHSN RESOURCES**

1. TMF resources here: [NHSN Resources](#)

2. CDC NHSN FAQ:

3. CDC NHSN COVID19 Module:
   [https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/covid19/index.html)

4. Details on SAMS Level 3: [SAMS Level Three Access](#) Having backup Users is crucial to staying in compliance with reporting!

5. 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).**

• **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**
Other Training Opportunities

• **A Fireside Chat with CMS, CDC and Long Term Care Community Champions**
  Passcode: 6jby41s=  (40 minutes)

• **QIO Program Training -** 13 topics that nursing home teams must know to manage the COVID-19 pandemic:  
  [CMS-CDC Fundamentals of COVID-19 Prevention for Nursing Home Management](#)

• **To customize your nursing home training for COVID-19 prevention,**
  [Take the Training Fundamentals Self-Assessment.](#) (Have your CCN handy)
TMF LTC Connect – 30 minute sessions

- March 25 - The Best-Ever Formula to Improve Influenza Vaccinations
- April 22 - The Best-Ever Formula to Improve Pneumococcal Vaccinations
- May 20 – Hit the Easy Button on NHSN COVID Data
- Register: https://tmfnetworks.org/Events
- Sessions start at 1:30 pm
Reach out to us at:

nhnetwork@tmf.org

to submit requests for assistance with NHSN reporting problems or quality improvement assistance.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Robert Ochoa
Senior Policy Specialist
Policy & Rules
Long-term Care Regulation
Reminders

GovDelivery Alerts
Don’t forget to sign up for GovDelivery alerts [https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHS_C/subscriber/new](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHS_C/subscriber/new)
Select “Nursing Facility Resources” as a topic option to receive webinar updates.

CMS/CDC COVID-19 Training
CMS is offering free online training for nursing facilities related to COVID-19
[Click here](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHS_C/subscriber/new) 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](https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHS_C/subscriber/new)
Reminders: Upcoming Webinars

Creating a Culture of Normalcy within COVID-19:

- March 11, 2021; 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Register for the webinar.
- March 12, 2021; 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Register for the webinar.

Emergency Preparedness Webinar

- March 16, 2021; 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Register for the March 16 webinar.
Questions?

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

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

Link to Information Letter 2020-41 Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Evaluations: Use of Telephone Interviews or Videoconferencing

Continued...
Join the TMF Quality Innovation Network Group and Confer Rights in the National Healthcare Safety Network

Step 1: Confirm Administrative Privileges
Only administrator-level users in the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) can join a group and confer rights for their facility or facilities. This can be confirmed by viewing the options in the left-hand navigation bar. Only administrative-level users will be able to view the Group menu selection and its options.

NHSN Home
Alerts
Dashboard
Reporting Plan
Resident
Event
Summary Data
Import/Export
Surveys
Analysis
Users
Facility
Group

NHSN Long Term Care Facility Component Home Page

- Long Term Care Dashboard

- Action Items

You have no action items.

Assurance of Confidentiality: The voluntarily provided information obtained in this surveillance system will only be for the purposes stated, and will otherwise be disclosed or released without the consent of the individual.

Get Adobe Acrobat Reader for PDF files

Confirmed Rights
Join
Leave
Nominate

Continued
Step 2: Join the TMF Quality Innovation Network Group

Navigate to the Group menu selection in the left-hand navigation bar and select “Join” to enter the TMF Quality Innovation Network group ID and password, as seen below.

- ID: 39183
- Password: TMFQINQIO (all uppercase)

Click on the button “Join Group.” If you receive an error message, please review the group ID and re-enter the password. If the problem persists, please email the TMF Quality Innovation Network at NHNetwork@tmf.org for assistance.

Step 3: Review the Group Function Disclaimer

Once the group ID and joining password have been entered correctly, and “Join Group” is selected, a warning message will appear. Please read this message and select “OK.”
Step 4: Rights Conferral Template for the TMF Quality Innovation Network Group

Once the administrator-level user has joined the group, he or she will see the rights conferral template for the TMF Quality Innovation Network group. Below are screenshots of the information that the TMF Quality Innovation Network group is requesting to review and analyze. Once the administrator-level user has reviewed the template, scroll to the bottom of the page and select “Accept.”

If you have any concerns about the information being requested on the rights template, please email NHN_network@tmf.org before accepting the template.

[Images of the rights conferral template are shown, including options for residents with all identifiers, without any identifiers, or with specified identifiers. Additionally, there are sections for infections and other events, MDR0/CDI events, and MDR0/CDI process & outcome measures.]
When to Quarantine LTC Residents

*Disclaimer*: According to recent CDC guidance, LTC residents who have been fully vaccinated should still quarantine after exposure to COVID-19. They are an exception to the quarantine exemptions for fully vaccinated individuals in the general public because the vaccine effectiveness is unknown in the LTC resident population, there is higher risk of severe disease and death, and there are challenges with social distancing in healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing for COVID-19, if indicated.

**Unknown COVID-19 status**: new admission, 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, or who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting test results.

- **Has the resident recovered** from COVID-19 in the last 90 days by meeting the CDC's criteria to discontinue transmission based precautions AND does the resident remain asymptomatic?

  - **Yes**: Per CDC guidance, those who have recovered from COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days AND remain asymptomatic do NOT need to quarantine.
    - Once 90 days have elapsed since recovery from COVID-19, the resident should quarantine per CDC guidance.
  - **No**: Has the resident been fully vaccinated against COVID-19? (Fully vaccinated = ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)

- **Is the facility experiencing a significant staffing shortage?**

  - **Yes**: The facility may consider waiving quarantine requirements during critical staffing shortages.
  - **No**: Quarantine per CDC guidance, When to Quarantine & COVID-19 Vaccines

- **Quarantine per CDC guidance, When to Quarantine & COVID-19 Vaccines**
When to Quarantine LTC Staff

Disclaimer: According to recent CDC guidance, fully vaccinated healthcare personnel may be exempt from quarantine as a strategy to alleviate staffing shortages. Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still watch for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing for COVID-19, if indicated.

Staff member who has had unprotected exposure* or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive, or who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting test results

*See Potential Exposure at Work to assess risk exposure in

Has the staff member recovered from COVID-19 in the last 90 days by meeting the CDC's Return to Work Criteria AND does the staff member remain asymptomatic?

Yes: Per CDC guidance, those who have recovered from COVID-19 infection in the last 90 days AND remain asymptomatic do NOT need to quarantine.

Once 90 days have elapsed since recovery from COVID-19, the staff member should quarantine per CDC guidance.

No: Has the staff member been fully vaccinated against COVID-19?
(Fully vaccinated = ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)

Yes: Is the facility experiencing a significant staffing shortage?

No: Quarantine per CDC guidance, When to Quarantine & COVID-19 Vaccines

Yes: The facility may consider waiving quarantine requirements during critical staffing shortages

No: Quarantine per CDC guidance, When to Quarantine & COVID-19 Vaccines