Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR and DSHS
November 4, 2020

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
Reminder

For policy or regulatory questions, please send to: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us or call 512-438-3161.

For logistical items related to the webinar (i.e. accessing webinar recordings, signing up for future webinars), please send to kayla.lail@hhs.texas.gov
Next Week’s Webinar

Next week’s webinar will be held:

Friday, November 13th
1:00pm – 2:30pm

We will return to our regular schedule of Wednesdays at 2:30pm the following week.
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

• Introduction and overview
• Updates
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 NF in a specific area where COVID-19 is surging.

Managing the COVID-19 Crisis:

1. Lubbock Co. and Surrounding Areas
   Nov. 5, 2 p.m.
   Register for the webinar.

2. Amarillo and Surrounding Areas
   Nov. 12, 1:30 p.m.
   Register for the webinar.

3. Midland/Odessa and Surrounding Areas
   Nov. 16, 2 p.m.
   Register for the webinar.
CMS NF COVID-19 for Fall & Winter

CMS developed free trainings to help NFs prepare for the fall and winter months during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trainings are available for NF frontline staff and NF administrators.

The trainings can be accessed through CMS Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP)
COVID-19 Recovered Essential Caregivers

CDC guidance does not recommend testing those who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and have met Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for 90 days from:

- symptom onset, or
- first COVID-19 positive test (for those who were asymptomatic)

For essential caregivers that meet this criteria, NFs must document why they were not tested prior to their first visit or per the NFs testing strategy for essential caregivers.
COVID-19 Recovered Essential Caregivers

Documentation should include:

• When the essential caregiver was diagnosed or first had symptoms
• The reason why the test was not preformed (refer to [CDC guidance](#))
• The results of their screening before entry

After 3 months from the date of the first positive test (asymptomatic) or date of symptom onset (symptomatic cases) testing of the essential caregiver should resume per the NFs testing strategy.
Holiday Activities & Outings

NFs planning group activities, including holiday meals, should follow the group activity guidance in the NF COVID-19 Response Plan.

• Group activities should be for COVID-19 negative residents

• Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet between each resident

• Perform hand hygiene before and after activity

• Staff wear facemasks, and residents wear facemasks or face coverings if tolerated

• Do not use shared items

• Clean and sanitize the activity area and all items used before and after each activity.
Holiday Activities & Outings

Residents have the right to make the informed decision to leave the facility for a holiday activity.

NFs should educate residents (or resident families if possible) about risks and infection control protocol, including:

- Avoiding large group gatherings
- Avoiding having a buffet-style meal
- Do not include persons with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in gatherings
- Wear facemasks as much as possible (or as tolerated for the resident)
- Ensure frequent and proper handwashing
Holiday Activities & Outings

Additional recommendations for holiday gatherings per CDC:

• Outdoor events are safer than indoor events
• Limit the number of attendees as much as possible
• If possible, host activities with only people from your local area or ask visitors from outside local area to quarantine 14 days beforehand
• Wash hands before and after preparing, serving, or eating food

CDC recommends that those with increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid in-person gatherings.
Holiday Activities & Outings

Per the COVID-19 Response Rule, residents who leave the facility must be placed in the ‘unknown COVID-19 status’ and quarantined for 14 days upon return if they:

• Have been gone overnight
• Had exposure or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive, or who was exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting test results

If a resident does not meet either of these conditions, they do not have to be quarantined upon return.
COVID-19 Vaccine Options

To prepare for an eventual COVID-19 vaccine, NFs have a couple options.

The Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program

The CDC is partnering with CVS and Walgreens to offer onsite COVID-19 vaccination services for NFs. CVS/Walgreens will provide end-to-end management of the entire COVID-19 vaccination process.

NFs can sign up through NHSN. **The sign-up period ends Friday November 6, 2020.**

Contact [eocevent494@cdc.gov](mailto:eocevent494@cdc.gov) for questions.
COVID-19 Vaccine Options

Become a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider through DSHS

NFs may still sign up to become a COVID-19 vaccine provider through DSHS.

NFs may sign up for the federal Pharmacy Partnership and through DSHS (if they wish to have DSHS vaccine enrollment as a back-up plan).

NFs can enroll as a COVID-19 Vaccine provider through enrolltexasiz.dshs.texas.gov

Enrollees must meet all requirements detailed on this website.
As a reminder, weekly NHSN reports require NFs to report their current PPE supply-status.

For the questions *Do You Currently Have Any Supply* and *Do You Have Enough for One Week*:

Respond **Yes** if operating under **Conventional Capacity** – measures consistent with general infection prevention and control plans.
Reporting PPE Shortages on NHSN

For the questions *Do You Currently Have Any Supply* and *Do You Have Enough for One Week:*

Respond **No** for each supply item in which the facility currently does **not have** PPE available for conventional use or operating under either:

- **Contingency Capacity** – temporary measures utilized while current supplies are met but future supplies are uncertain
- **Crisis Capacity** – utilizing strategies that are not commensurate with US standards of care but are required due to PPE shortages

Please see the **PPE module instructions** for details.
Having Items Delivered

Residents may receive items from family members or otherwise have items delivered, including food, flowers, and packages.

For items delivered outside of a personal visit, NFs should designate an area outside of the facility to receive deliveries.

NF staff would retrieve the items, bring them inside, and disinfect them prior to delivering the items to the residents. Facilities should follow CDC guidance for appropriate disinfecting guidelines, depending on what the items are.
Having Items Delivered

For handling non-food items, **CDC recommends** hand washing after handling items delivered or after handling mail.

Per CDC, although COVID-19 can survive for a short period on some surfaces, it is unlikely to be spread from domestic or international mail, products or packaging.

It may be possible to get COVID-19 by touching an object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Residents have a right to privacy with their mail per federal and state rule. See [42 CFR §483.10(h)(2)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-living-home/landlord-renter-tenant.html) and [40 TAC §19.412](https://www.tdhhs.state.tx.us/health/emergency/coronavirus/coronavirus-prevention/coronavirus-prevention-for-businesses)
Having Items Delivered

Visitors may bring items, including food, for a resident during a visit.

For essential caregivers, the NF should inform the essential caregiver of the necessary infection control and food safety protocols for delivered items.

For other visitors, NF staff should assist to deliver the item to the resident so that the visitor does not violate physical distancing.
Residents may eat or drink during visitation.

Visitors (including essential caregivers) may not eat or drink with resident during the visit as it would require the visitor to remove their facemask.
Having Items Delivered

From the CDC’s Food Safety webpage:

- The risk of infection by the virus from food products, food packaging, or bags is thought to be very low.
- Currently, no cases of COVID-19 have been identified where infection was thought to have occurred by touching food, food packaging, or shopping bags.
- Do NOT use disinfectants designed for hard surfaces, such as bleach or ammonia, on food packaged in cardboard or plastic wrap.
- After handling food packages and before eating food, always wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
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@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

Melody Malone, PT, CPHQ, MHA, CDP, CADDCT
TeamSTEPPS® Master Trainer
INTERACT® Certified Champion

Healthcare Quality Improvement Specialist
TMF Health Quality Institute
COVID-19 Q&A

TMF Presents LTC CONNECT: Making Merry Out of COVID

Ideas for Fun Holiday Activities while Staying Safe

Thursday, November 12, 2020
11:00 a.m. CT
30 minutes

Click here to Register

*Link is also available in October 28th NF webinar slides on the provider portal.
NHSN – SAMS Level 3 Access

• Required for Point of Care Testing data submission

• Requires identity proofing by each individual requesting access

• See TMF resources here: NHSN Resources

• See CDC resource here: SAMS Level Three Access

• Reach out to us at nhnetwork@tmf.org to submit requests for assistance with NHSN reporting problems.
Project ECHO

Nursing Home COVID-19 Network Now

• Funded through the CARES Act - Participants may be eligible for financial compensation

• We have assembled an experienced team of experts to help facilitate this community of practice and support participating nursing homes in areas of safety and quality improvement (QI).

• The curriculum, which will be updated weekly, covers a wide scope of topics related to COVID-19 response and preparedness, as well as QI methods to support ongoing testing and learning by staff.

• Minimum of two staff members of your institution must participate on your team and attend the weekly meeting. Prefer that one staff member be a CNA.

More info: ProjectECHO@tmf.org ** launching next week!**
Mini-Training

Panelist

Karen Keller
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
Question:
Are clergy allowed to make individual visits even if they are not designated as a resident’s essential caregiver?

Answer:
Yes. Per [QSO-20-39](#) clergy may enter an NF to “provide direct care to the facility’s residents.” Clergy would be required to pass screening, wear all appropriate PPE, and should maintain physical distancing between themselves and the resident. Additionally, per QSO-20-39, clergy would be subject to the same testing requirements as facility staff, as outlined in [QSO-20-38](#).
Question:
Are KN95 masks no longer recommended for a quarantined unit?

Answer:
HHSC recognizes the respirators and other types of PPE, approved under the FDA’s EUA, for use in NFs. All the respirators listed in Appendix A of the EUA are approved for use, which does include certain KN95 models. All other respirator models which are not listed in the EUA are not approved for use. Please note that the FDA reissued an EUA for respirators manufactured in China on October 15th. (Cont. on next slide)
Answer (cont.):

This EUA was reissued to authorize only those respirators the FDA had already authorized and that are presently listed in Appendix A. With the reissued EUA, the FDA removed previous eligibility criteria from the June 6, 2020 EUA. Therefore, no additional respirator models will be added to Appendix A under the older criteria.

See FDA news release: FDA Reissues Emergency Use Authorization for Certain Non-NIOSH-Approved Filtering Face-Piece Respirators Manufactured in China
Questions?

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Thank you!

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