Welcome ICF/IID Providers!

COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTC Regulation and DSHS

August 24, 2020

For more information:
Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161
COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

Kirsten Notaro, MA
ICF Policy Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

• Reminders
• Updates
Reminder

GovDelivery

• GovDelivery is an email and electronic notification system that will notify you anytime information is posted.

• You can register for GovDelivery notifications by clicking on this GovDelivery Sign-up Link and following the instructions for signing up for notifications.
HHSC Resumes Survey Activity for ICF and HCSSA Providers

Effective Aug. 4, 2020:

All survey activity will resume, including recertification surveys for both health and life safety code. All survey activity includes licensure surveys, follow-ups, complaint and incident investigations, and CHOW visits.

Providers that are past or close to the end of their certification period will be scheduled first.
Please read and review *frequently*. 

Keep a copy on hand at all times.

**COVID-19 Response for ICF**

[Image of COVID-19 Response document]
ICF COVID-19 Phase 1 Visitation Emergency Rules

HHSC has issued ICF/IID COVID-19 Phase 1 Visitation Emergency Rules.

These rules describe the requirements related to limited indoor and outdoor visitation in an ICF/IID.

**Effective date: 8/14/2020**

*Mini Training to be held today*
ICF COVID-19 Mitigation and Response Emergency Rules

HHSC has issued ICF/IID COVID-19 Mitigation and Response Emergency Rules.

These rules are enhanced COVID-19 emergency rules requiring additional actions by ICF/IIDs to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Effective date: 8/14/2020

*Mini Training to be held today*
Update to PL 20-24

HHSC has published a revised version of Provider Letter 20-24, Phase 1 COVID-19 Visitation Requirements, for ALF, ICF/IID, and NF providers.

Revision updates include:

• Updated attestation form 2192 to indicate if a facility is requesting indoor visitation;

• Clarifies that the facility should submit the form to the LTCR Regional Director in the region where the facility is located;

• Clarifies that window visits are defined by each program’s emergency rules; and

• Added a link with regional contact info.
COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

David Gruber
Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local Health Operations
DSHS

• Updates
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

• Updates
COVID-19 Updates

Panelist

Mary Valente, MPAff, LBSW, SMQT, CMDCP
Policy Development Support Office
1915(b) Waivers Support
ICF/IID Medicaid Policy Specialist
1915(c) Waivers Special Projects

• Updates
• Q&A
Mini Training

Panelist

Melodee Duesing
ICF Training Specialist
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Welcome Back!
Catherine Anglin
Sr. Policy Specialist; NF, ICF, LSC
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulatory

• Updates
**COVID-19 Q&A**

**Question:**
If the facility temporarily loses the Phase 1 designation, due to a staff or resident testing positive, what would be the rationale for not allowing closed window visits but allowing therapeutic passes to continue?

**Response:**
Closed-window visits are and have been permitted for all facilities. The rules under Phase 1 visitation are specific to open-window visitation only (as well as the other visitation types discussed in the rules).
COVID-19 Q&A

**Question:**
What is the expectation for sanitizing outdoor meeting areas when it comes to wooden railing and other non-metallic or non-plastic surfaces? Example: wooden porch rails, wooden or concrete benches, wicker chairs.

**Response:**
An ICF should follow the CDC guidance for cleaning and sanitizing surfaces.
COVID-19 Q&A

Question:
What instructions should we give families arriving to pick up their loved one regarding where to wait and not create an violation of visitation rules? Is there an expectation of specific yards or feet to keep away from the main entrance? Is the expectation that staff carry luggage, medication and documentation to a receiving family’s vehicle? Etc.

Response:
The rules do not specify a particular distance, where families should wait, or how to facilitate transferring things like personal belongings or medications, or signing documents. The rules do state that non-essential visitors may not enter facility, unless the facility meets and is approved for Phase 1 visitation – and then, only if they comply with all requirements of visitation.
COVID-19 Q&A Cont.

Response (cont):
You will have to determine what process works best for your facility. For example, staff can meet with family members and be closer than six feet if they follow the CDC recommendations for wearing full PPE, or you might also consider whether you can have documents signed electronically.
Questions?

For more information:
Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161
Thank you!

For more information:
Email: PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us
Phone: 512-438-3161