Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

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

For more 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
Reminder

Sign-up for Gov Delivery
To sign-up for Alerts:

• Go to: https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXHHHSC/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-CDC Nursing Facility Trainings are moving to an on-demand, pre-recorded format with bi-weekly Q&A webinars.

Click here to view currently available pre-recorded trainings.

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.
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:

• Updates 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.
• Added a link with regional contact info
August 13 & August 19 Updates

Version 3.5

COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities
August 13 Updates

Updates include:

- Clarifies that Form 3613-A needs to be submitted to TULIP within 5 days of a confirmed COVID-19 case
- Adds an entire section on Phase 1 visitation requirements and protocols (Attachment 4)
- Adds references to new emergency mitigation rules and emergency Phase 1 visitation rules
August 19 Updates

Updates include:

• Adds group activity guidelines for COVID-19 negative residents
CMS Testing Requirements

CMS is expected to issue a rule to require facilities in “hot spots” to test staff weekly, as detailed in this press release from July 22.

“Hot spots” will be considered any county with a positivity rate greater than 5%.

For information on facilities receiving point-of-care rapid test kits from U.S. HHS, see CMS Q&A: COVID-19 Testing in NF
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik, DNP, RN
Associate Commissioner
Long-term Care Regulation
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Renee Blanch-Haley, BSN, RN
Director of Survey Operations
Long-term Care Regulation
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, (or) patty.ducayet@hhsc.state.tx.us

Weekly Facebook Live Q&A for Families of LTC Residents: Every Wednesday, 12:15 to 12:45

Updates:
• Ombudsman visiting
• Ombudsman support for Phase 1 Visitation
Mini Training

Panelists

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

Karen Keller
Joint Training Specialist
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory Services Division
COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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

• Questions from last week
COVID-19 Q&A

Question:
If a staff member is COVID-19 negative but lives with someone who is positive for COVID-19, should they still report to work?

Answer:
According to the emergency mitigation rules, a staff member who has had “contact in the last 14 days, unless to provide critical assistance, with someone who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, is under investigation for COVID-19, or is ill with a respiratory illness...must not be permitted to enter the facility and must be sent home.” (see more on next slide)
Regarding what is considered “contact” – according to CDC, if the staff member has had any interaction for 15 minutes or more, at < 6 feet, with the infected person (in the period from 2 days before symptom onset until they meet criteria for discontinuing isolation), they have been exposed and should not report to work until at least 14 days have passed since their last exposure.
COVID-19 Q&A

**Question:**
Can student nurses needing clinicals needed to graduate be considered essential?

**Answer:**
Nursing students may enter if a facility deems them essential to their operations.

Nursing students must adhere to all mitigation protocols, be screened upon entrance, and utilize proper PPE while in the facility.

Please note that Governor Abbott waived certain requirements for student nurses in response to COVID-19.
Questions?

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Thank you!

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