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**Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!**

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR  
and DSHS  
August 19, 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](mailto:PolicyRulesTraining@hhsc.state.tx.us)

Phone: 512-438-3161

# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

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

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- Introduction and overview
- Reminders and updates



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# Reminder

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## 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

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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 27<sup>th</sup>.

[Register Here](#) for future Q&A webinars.



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# Updated PL 20-42

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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



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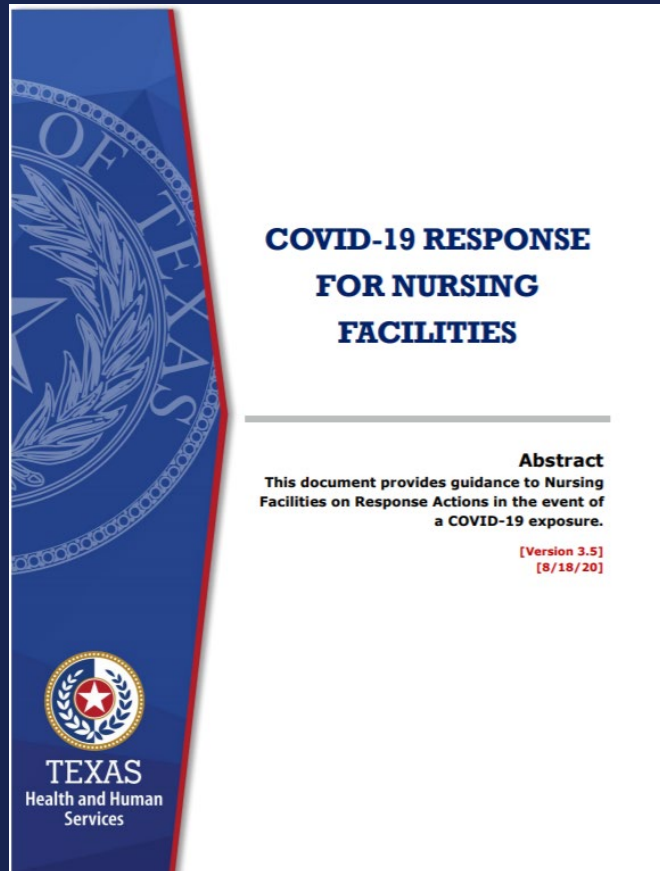
# August 13 & August 19 Updates

## Version 3.5

### 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 3.5]  
[8/18/20]

# August 13 Updates

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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



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# August 19 Updates

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Updates include:

- Adds group activity guidelines for COVID-19 negative residents



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# CMS Testing Requirements

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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](#)



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

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

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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

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

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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ltc.ombudsman@hhsc.state.tx.us)

State Ombudsman: Patty Ducayet,

(or) [patty.ducayet@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto: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?ref-ts>

Updates:

- Ombudsman visiting
- Ombudsman support for Phase 1 Visitation



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# Mini Training

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## Panelists

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

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Karen Keller  
Joint Training Specialist  
Policy, Rules, & Training/Regulatory Services  
Division



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

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

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- Questions from last week



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## 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)*



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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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.



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## 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.



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# Questions?

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# Thank you!

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