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Services

Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTCR
and DSHS**

July 09, 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

Phone: 512-438-3161

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Cecilia Cavuto, MSML
NF, ICF & LSC Policy and Rule Manager
Policy, Rules and Training
Long-term Care Regulation

- Introduction and overview
- Reminders and updates



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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."



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Update

NF CHOW Process Improvements

A NF CHOW Committee led by the HHSC Medicaid and Regulatory Services divisions has:

- The CHOW of the license and the processing of the new Medicaid contract are conducted simultaneously.
- Reduced the number of required contracting forms.
- Reduced the average time to complete an initial review of the licensing CHOW application.
- Decreased the time from licensing application submission to Medicaid contract execution from an average of 192 days in September 2019 to an average of 70 days in April 2020.

Continued...



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Update

NF CHOW Process Improvements Continued

Upcoming improvements:

- HHSC is creating training for providers related to the NF CHOW process.
- HHSC is updating the Texas Unified Licensure Information Portal to improve the flow through the application process.
- HHSC has submitted a request to TMHP related to streamlining the reimbursement process.



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Update

Updated NF COVID-19 FAQs

Posted July 7

HHSC Long-term Care Regulation has updated the nursing facility provider

[Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19](#)



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Clarification - Update

State Contractor for COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Facilities

*Clarification - In nursing facilities, testing is for staff only and in assisted living facilities for both staff and residents.

TDEM has contracted with Omnicare to administer COVID-19 tests in NFs and ALFs beginning in July.

- Omnicare is providing point-of-care testing at **no charge to the facility**. Results are typically provided to the facility within 24-48 hours.
- Omnicare will contact certain facilities directly to schedule COVID-19 testing and will provide more detail about the process at that time. Facilities who are interested in requesting testing and who have not been contacted by Omnicare can request testing by contacting their LTCR regional director.



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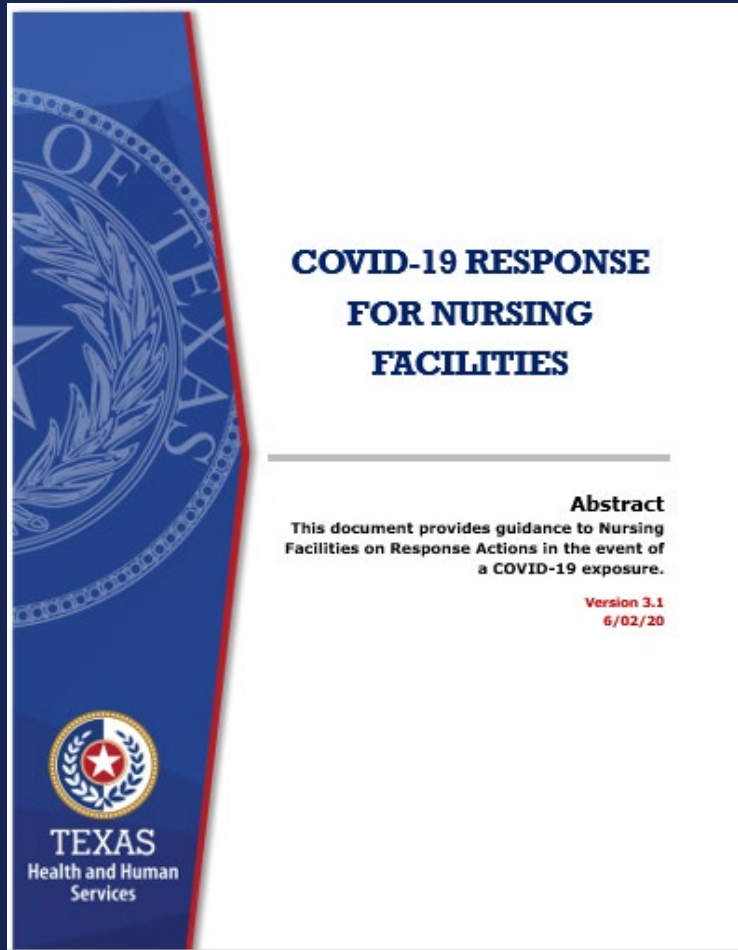
Please read and review frequently.

Keep a copy on hand.

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 3.1
6/02/20

NF Stakeholders Invited to COVID-19 Comprehensive National Training

Training will be held on the following topics:

- Establishing an infection prevention program, and conducting ongoing infection surveillance in the nursing home
- Implementation strategies for COVID-19 surveillance and early detection
- Cohorting: effective management of residents and staff
- Clinical Care: managing COVID-positive residents
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) strategies for COVID care

Continued...



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NF Stakeholders Invited to COVID-19 Comprehensive National Training

Continued

Dates for training:

- July 10: 1:00 p.m.

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

- July 14: 4:00 p.m.
- July 17: 1:00 p.m.
- July 21: 4:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend any of the comprehensive trainings, you may also view recordings, slides and resources on [QIOProgram.org](#).



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PPE Infection Control Basics Webinar

Prevent or minimize the spread of infectious disease by using PPE. During this webinar:

- Review standard and transmission-based precautions
 - Learn proper hand hygiene techniques
 - Demonstrate how to utilize PPE
 - Discuss the importance of social distancing in an outbreak situation
-
- July 10: 3:00 p.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)
 - July 17: 10:00 a.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)
 - July 24: 3:00 p.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)
 - July 31: 10:00 a.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)



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Emergency Preparedness for Long Term Care Facilities Webinars

- July 14: 9:00 a.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)
- July 23: 1:00 p.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)
- July 27: 9:00 a.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)
- July 29: 1:00 p.m.
[Register for the webinar here.](#)



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Update

Reopening Plans

We are still actively working on plans to ease some of the current visitor restrictions - in phases, while still prioritizing safety. While we don't have a definite date at this time, we will get this guidance out as soon as we can.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

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



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- Updates

COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Michael Gayle
Deputy Associate Commissioner of Policy,
Rules, and Training
Regulatory Services Division – Long Term
Care Regulation
Health & Human Services Commission



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-
- Updates

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



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Patty Ducayet
State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Telework phone: 737-704-9075

https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/news_info/ombudsman/



Statewide Intake for an LTC Ombudsman:
800-252-2412 or ltc.ombudsman@hhsc.state.tx.us

<https://www.facebook.com/texasltcombudsman?fref=ts>

Hosting weekly 30 min. Facebook Live events to answer questions from family members of LTC residents every Wed. at 12:15p



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

Kharley Smith
Section Chief
Disaster Recovery Task Force
Texas Division of Emergency
Management

- Questions and Answers on new testing initiative



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Update

State Contractor for COVID-19 Testing in Nursing Facilities



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Does the alert mean we need to sign up for a voluntary round of testing or is it a mandatory round of testing?



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

We just tested everyone July 1st. Is this necessary again?



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Is this an ongoing testing option, such as is weekly testing an option? If so, do we need to submit a form each week?



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Will staff and residents have to pay for the test?

Response:

No, the state will be covering the costs of the tests.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Panelist

David Gruber

Associate Commissioner for Regional and
Local Health Operations
DSHS



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-
- Updates
 - Answers to questions from last week

COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Can you clarify which KN95 masks are appropriate for use in a nursing home?

Response:

- A) The right mask is one that is not flagged on the FDA website to not use.
- B) KN95 masks that are NIOSH approved are the equivalent to N95s.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Antigen and antibody tests are different. Is either acceptable for use in residents or staff at this time?



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Do you cough and sneeze into your mask or do you pull your mask up and cough and sneeze into a napkin or your sleeve?



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Can you please review how to handle routine trash and PPE that is not visibly soiled in a hot zone (HOT meaning housing COVID + residents)?



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

Our staff has expressed concerns that OSHA says we are not supposed to require them to wear the N95 longer than 4 hours without a 2 hour break O2 sat testing. Is this accurate? Most of my staff will be in N95s for entire 12 hour shift.



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- Questions and Answers from the week



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

If the SICA visits are optional, why are some Quality Monitors calling asking what has been done to address recommendations? Some Monitors have stated they will continue to call until all recommendations are completed.

Response:

SICA visits are optional and the information provided is intended to be collaborative in nature. LTCR will reach out to all our partners to ensure we're all on the same page.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

We have had two staff members complete the Certified Medication course but have been unable to test at this time - are they able to orient and work prior to test?

Response:

No, the individuals cannot work as a medication aide prior to testing.



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

We are a facility that has an approved Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program (NATCEP) but have not had any classes since this began. We are getting in a big need to start a class - is this possible?

Response:

NATCEP classes can continue, but visitation restrictions remain in place, so classes need to take place at a location other than the facility.

(Please see next slide NATCEP training.)



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COVID-19 Q&A

Question:

How can someone disinfect shoes instead of using shoes covers?

Response:

Per the CDC , “To disinfect your shoes, sit down in the clean chair. This will be designated as the clean chair. Once you’re sitting down, use the EPA-registered disinfectant wipes to thoroughly disinfect all the surfaces of your shoes, moving from top to bottom and including the soles. Be sure not to touch your ankles.”

You can find a video of how to do this on the [CDC website](#).



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