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**Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!**

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTC  
Regulation and DSHS  
June 25, 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

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

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- Introduction and overview
- Reminders and updates



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# Update

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## Complaint Intakes

Complaint Intakes will no longer be generated for Focused Infection Control (FIC) surveys in certified facilities.



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# Update

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## SICA Team Visits

Guidance by SICA teams does not supersede the COVID-19 Response for NFs. SICA guidance is intended to be an additional consultative resource to assist providers with best practices. Questions regarding information provided by SICA teams can be sent to the Regional Director of your area.



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# Clarification

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## Quality Monitors with Legal Authority to Enter

Last week we mentioned QMP staff can enter NFs. To clarify, the quality monitors who have legal authority to enter a NF are those who work for the HHSC Quality Monitoring Program and are performing their official duties when they visit facilities.



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# Update

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## FDA Advisory

FDA is advising consumers not to use hand sanitizers manufactured by Eskbiochem in Mexico due to the potential presence of methanol.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-consumers-not-use-hand-sanitizer-products-manufactured-eskbiochem>



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# Update Continued

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## Products that should not be used:

- All-Clean Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-002-01)
- Esk Biochem Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-007-01)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-008-04)
- Lavar 70 Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-006-01)
- The Good Gel Antibacterial Gel Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-010-10)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-005-03)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 75% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-009-01)
- CleanCare NoGerm Advanced Hand Sanitizer 80% Alcohol (NDC: 74589-003-01)
- Saniderm Advanced Hand Sanitizer (NDC: 74589-001-01)



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# Clarification

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## Cohorting Residents

Nursing Facility residents need to be cohorted with residents who have the same COVID-19 status.

Facilities should be prepared to have three categories of residents for cohorting purposes:

1. Residents without COVID-19 (confirmed negative, recovered and meet all CDC criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions, not showing symptoms)
2. Residents with confirmed cases of COVID-19
3. Residents with unknown COVID-19 status, and possible cases of COVID-19 awaiting test results

(continued...)



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# Clarification

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## Cohorting Residents

\* Residents who are in the 14-day quarantine and monitoring period do not have to start the quarantine and monitoring time over if a roommate is brought in at a later date, unless the roommate tests positive for COVID-19. If the roommate tests positive, the 14-day quarantine and monitoring period starts again the day of the diagnosis.



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# Clarification

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## Which residents are considered to have unknown COVID-19 status?

- New admissions
- Readmissions
- Residents who have spent one or more nights away from the facility

(continued...)



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# Clarification

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## Which residents are considered to have unknown COVID-19 status?

- Residents who leave the facility for medically necessary appointments and return the same day are **not** considered to have unknown COVID-19 status. Rather, their COVID-19 status is the same as it was when they left the facility for their appointment and may return to their usual room.

(continued...)



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# Clarification

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## Which residents are considered to have unknown COVID-19 status?

\* NF residents who leave the facility for medically necessary appointments should wear face coverings, as tolerated, while out of the facility.



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# Clarification

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## 14-Day Quarantine for Residents with Unknown COVID-19 Status

- All residents who have unknown COVID-19 status must be isolated and monitored for the full 14-day period. **Testing is not an option for decreasing the 14-day time period.**
- Staff caring for residents with unknown COVID-19 status should wear all CDC recommended PPE (N95s, eye protection, gloves and gowns – masks for droplet protection can be use if N95s are not available).



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# PPE Infection Control Basics Webinar

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The webinar emphasizes how to prevent or minimize the spread of infectious disease by using PPE. During this webinar you will:

- 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
- June 26: 8:30 a.m.  
[Register for the webinar here.](#)



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# Updates

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## Reopening Plans

We are still actively working on plans to ease some of these current restrictions related to visitors 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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# Coming Soon

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**Late this week or early next week:**

- Version 3.2 of the COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities
- COVID-19 FAQs for Nursing Facilities



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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

- Updates
- Additional information from CMS



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## **Question:**

**Can we require SICA teams to come with a COVID negative test status?**

## **Response:**

SICA team members are complying with all CDC and DSHS infection control protocols. They are subject to screening prior to entering. If they do not pass screening then they should not be allowed to enter. SICA visits are voluntary and facilities may decline a visit when their region reaches out to them to set up an appointment.



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## **Question:**

**Are the SICA teams entering COVID positive buildings then going to COVID negative buildings?**

## **Response:**

SICA teams are entering facilities regardless of COVID status.



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## **Question:**

**Can we get a copy of the SICA checklist?**

## **Response:**

Facilities should receive a copy of their final report after having a visit from a SICA team.



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

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

[https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/news\\_info/ombudsman/](https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/news_info/ombudsman/)



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

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## Panelist

David Gruber

Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local  
Health Operations

DSHS

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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Panelist

Valerie Krueger  
Mental Health PASRR Specialist  
IDD Program Services, IDD-BH

- Updates



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Question:

Are there any updates regarding Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) and when Local Behavioral Health Authorities should start addressing the backlog of PASRR Evaluations?



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[Information Letter No. 20-13](#)

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

- Questions and Answers from the week



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## **Question:**

**Are NFs required to retest all staff and residents?**

## **Response:**

Not at this time. The NF testing initiative was a one-time directive. There are options for facilities who want to retest, including working with your local health authority.



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## **Question:**

**Is there a statewide prohibition for new admissions if a facility has a positive case?**

## **Response:**

No. While there may be local orders related to NF admissions in parts of the state, there is not a statewide for federally mandated prohibition on new admissions for facilities that have COVID-19 cases. Facilities should continue to admit anyone they would normally admit.



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# COVID-19 Q&A

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## Question:

If a resident comes from the hospital and is designated “unknown”, are they allowed to go to therapy when no other residents are in the therapy gym?

## Response:

Yes - the resident may go to therapy. The NF should have a plan in place to ensure the resident does not have contact with COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 negative residents, the resident should wear a mask or face covering while out of the bedroom, and infection control measures should be followed to disinfect the therapy room and all equipment before and after each use.



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# Questions?

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# Thank you!

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