



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Welcome Nursing Facility Providers!**

**COVID-19 Updates and Q&A with LTC  
Regulation and DSHS  
June 05, 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

---

## Panelist

Catherine Anglin  
Sr. Policy Specialist; NF, ICF, LSC  
Policy, Rules and Training  
Long-term Care Regulation

---

- Introduction and overview
- Updates
- COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Resource

---

## The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)

Hosting daily 20-minute "[National Nursing Home Huddles](#)." Registrants also receive access to the [materials page](#).

These calls provide real-time solutions that can be implemented in nursing homes today to solve many COVID-19-related challenges.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Reminder – CDC Reporting

---

## Requirements for Notification of Confirmed and Suspected COVID-19 Cases Among Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes: [CMS QSO 20-29-NH](#)

Reminder that per CMS, NFs must report COVID-19 information weekly to the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

NFs must also inform residents, their representatives, and families by 5 p.m. the next calendar day following either a single confirmed infection of COVID-19, or three or more residents or staff with new-onset of respiratory symptoms occurring within 72 hours of each other.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Reminder – CDC Reporting

---

Continued: [CMS QSO 20-29-NH](#)

- Failure to report in accordance with these requirements can result in an enforcement action cited at F884 and F885.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Reminder – CMS Reporting

## Release of COVID-19 Nursing Home Data: [QSO 20-32-NH](#)

CMS does post COVID-19 data submitted by NFs via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as of June 4th, 2020 at the following locations:

- The “Spotlight” section of the [Nursing Home Compare](#) home page.
- The [CMS Nursing Home Data](#) page
- Questions about this memorandum should be directed to [NH\\_COVID\\_Data@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov).
- Questions about the NHSN system and enrollment should be directed to [NHSN@cdc.gov](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov)



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Reminder – CMS Reporting

## CMS Posting Survey Results: [QSO 20-33-NH](#)

Starting June 4, 2020, CMS is also posting survey results for surveys conducted on or after March 4th, 2020, (the first date that CMS altered the way surveys are scheduled and conducted). This includes results related to complaints and facility-reported incidents that were triaged at the Immediate Jeopardy (IJ) level, and the streamlined Infection Control survey process that was developed based on the guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- Posted in the “Spotlight” section of the [Nursing Home Compare](#) home page



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# PPE Infection Control Basics Webinar

---

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 12: 8:30 a.m.

June 26: 8:30 a.m.

[Register for the webinar here.](#)



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

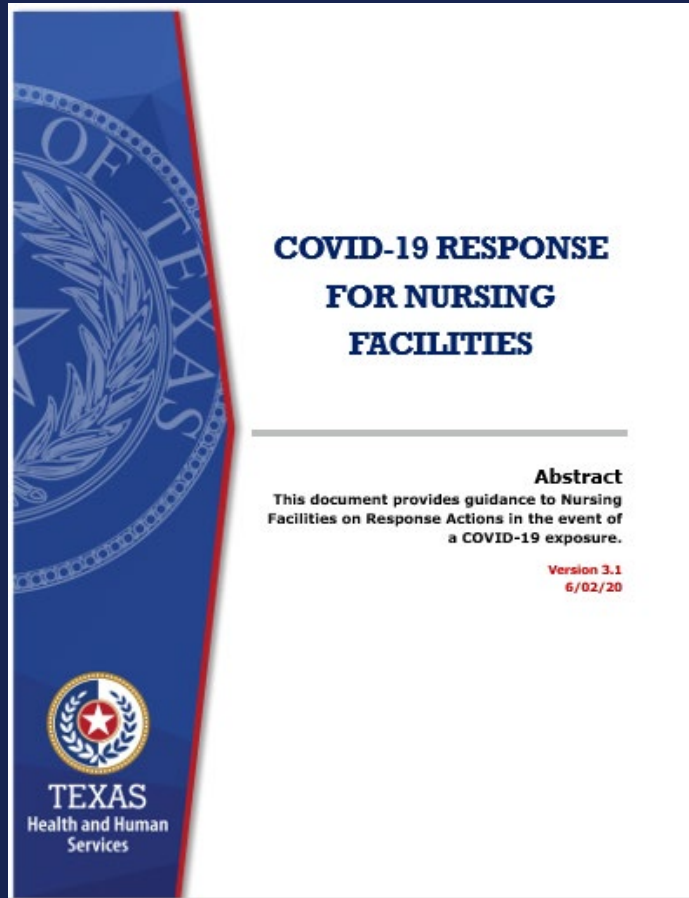


# June 02 Updates

## COVID-19 Response for Nursing Facilities



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services



### 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

# June 02 Updates

---

\*Updated/new information is in **red** font and includes:

The list of symptoms that people with COVID-19 may have:

- Fever of chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# June 02 Updates

Updates to the section "PPE Use When Caring for Residents with COVID-19:

- If PPE supply is limited, implement strategies to optimize PPE supply, which might include extended use of respirators, facemasks, and eye protection, and limiting gown use to high-contact care activities and those where splashes or sprays are anticipated. Broader testing could be utilized to prioritize PPE supplies.

Under 'Cloth gowns' - Certain types of gowns, sometimes called Level 1 or "minimal risk" gowns, do not provide protection from splashes/sprays of blood or body fluids, depending on the material the gown is made of. For these situations:

- Use a disposable, impervious isolation gown when a splash, spray, or cough might be expected.
- If the NF does not have disposable, impervious isolation gowns, use a disposable plastic apron over the cloth gown in these situations.



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

# June 02 Updates

---

Addition of new links added under CDC resources:

- [Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment](#)
- [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Upcoming Updates

---

- Training webinars on hurricane/emergency preparedness with COVID-19 considerations



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Panelist

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

- Updates



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Panelist

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

- Updates



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# 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/](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



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services



# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Panelist

Dr. Michael Fischer  
Department of State Health Services

---

- Updates



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Panelist

David Gruber

Associate Commissioner for Regional and Local  
Health Operations

DSHS

- 
- Updates



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Panelist

Catherine Anglin  
Sr. Policy Specialist; NF, ICF, LSC  
Policy, Rules and Training  
Long-term Care Regulation

- Questions and Answers from the week



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Question:

For new and re-admits who are isolated for 14 days are they considered to be suspected for COVID-19 and treated as positive, even if they have no signs or symptoms, do staff have to wear an N95 mask?

## Response:

No, a resident who is in isolations solely because they were newly admitted (or readmitted) is not automatically suspected of having COVID-19, nor should they be treated as positive. The CDC [recommends](#) N95 use be prioritized for staff caring for residents suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19 or when staff are caring for any resident in a building with widespread COVID-19 infection.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Question:

Can newly admitted residents be tested for COVID-19 instead of having to be in quarantine for 14 days?

## Response:

No, the [CDC guidance](#) does not allow for testing as an alternative to quarantine for newly admitted residents as a “negative test upon admission does not mean that the resident was not exposed or will not become infected in the future.”



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Question:

If a resident leaves the facility regularly for dialysis, do they have to be quarantined for 14 days each time?

## Response:

No, a resident receiving dialysis services outside the facility does not have to be quarantined each time they return. However, they cannot be cohorted with other residents who are either COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 negative.

Residents, who must regularly leave the facility for medically necessary purposes, should wear a facemask whenever they leave their bedroom, including for procedures outside of the facility. They should also continue to practice social distancing.

The CDC's [Nursing Home Infection Prevention Assessment Tool for COVID-19](#) provides guidance and recommended prevention measures for situations like this



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Question:

If a facility is having trouble registering with the NHSN system, will there be any extensions on the deadlines to submit our reports?

## Response:

Questions about the reporting requirements should be directed to [\*\*NH COVID Data@cms.hhs.gov\*\*](mailto:NH_COVID_Data@cms.hhs.gov).

Questions about the NHSN system and enrollment should be directed to [\*\*NHSN@cdc.gov\*\*](mailto:NHSN@cdc.gov)



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# COVID-19 Q&A

---

## Question:

Are dentists considered essential visitors?

## Response:

Yes – dentists should be allowed to enter if they pass screening.



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services





TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

# Questions?

---

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



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

# Thank you!

---

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