



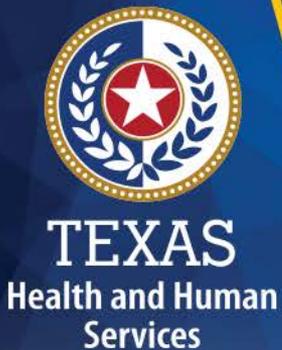
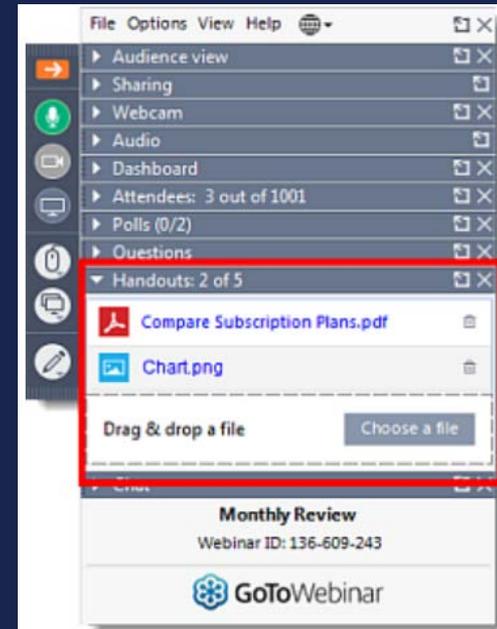
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**Welcome to the**  
**ALF Provider COVID-19 Webinar**  
**with LTCR**

**October 14, 2020**

# Reminder

A pdf version of this presentation is available in the **Handout** section of your control panel. Save the file to your computer to view or print later.



# Rule §553.2003

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Assisted Living Facility COVID-19  
Response Expansion of Reopening  
Visitation

<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/providers/long-term-care/alf/alf-covid-19-expansion-reopening-visitation-emergency-rule.pdf>

PL 20-38 (with Attestation Form 2194)

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-38.pdf>



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# ALF FAQ

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HHSC has published an updated [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for assisted living facility providers.

A pdf of this document is available in the Handout section of your control panel.



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# COVID-19 Status Definitions

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- 1. COVID-19 negative**—a resident who has either tested negative for COVID-19, or has no symptoms of the virus and has had no known exposure.
- 2. COVID-19 positive**—a resident who has tested positive for COVID-19 and does not yet meet CDC guidance for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions.
- 3. Unknown COVID-19 status**—a resident who is a new admission or who has spent one or more nights away from the facility, has had known exposure or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive, or who is exhibiting symptoms of the virus.



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# Residents who Leave

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**Do we have to quarantine a resident who returns to the facility if they left for any other reason than to go to a doctor's appointment?**

Only if they return with unknown COVID-19 status, meaning:

- Upon return screening, the resident has fever or other COVID-19 symptoms
- The resident spent one or more nights away,
- The resident had close contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive or has symptoms of the virus or
- Upon return screening questions, it is determined that during the visit they weren't able to follow all infection control protocol.



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# Residents who Leave

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If residents leave the facility, stress the importance of staying safe.

- wearing a facemask or face covering
- performing hand hygiene
- cough and sneeze etiquette
- physical distancing
- being aware of others who may potentially or actually have COVID-19
- reporting any contact with another person who may potentially or actually have COVID-19 to the facility



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# Educate Risk vs. Benefit

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It is the facility's responsibility to educate residents about the importance of weighing the risks and benefits of spending time in the community, including the potential risk for being exposed to or contracting COVID-19.



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# Quarantine Questionnaire

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When the resident returns, determine whether they need to be quarantined by asking:

- Were you in any crowded spaces?
- Were you in any situation where you were unable to maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from someone who was not wearing a facemask?
- Did you encounter anyone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- Did you encounter anyone who was exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID-19?



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# Visitation Designation

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Request facility visitation designation:

- Submit [LTCR form 2194](#), COVID-19 Status Attestation Form
- Submit facility map indicating which areas accommodate COVID-19 negative, positive, and unknown status residents

An ALF with previous visitation approval does not have to submit form 2194.

Check here for previous approval status:  
[https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/directories/Texas\\_COVID\\_Visitation.xls](https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/directories/Texas_COVID_Visitation.xls)



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# Visitation Designation

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To receive facility visitation designation, an ALF must meet all of the requirements in [§553.2003\(h\)](#).

Small ALFs that cannot provide separate areas for residents must meet all of the requirements in [§553.2003\(i\)](#).



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# Visitation Designation

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An ALF with visitation designation may allow the following types of visits:

- Outdoor visits
- Open window visits
- Vehicle parades
- Plexiglass indoor visits

The requirements found in [§553.2003\(k-m\)](#) apply to all visit types listed above.



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# Visitation Designation

## Visitation Designation Required

Outdoor Visits

Open Window

Vehicle Parade

Indoor Plexiglass

## Visitation Designation Not Required

End of Life

Closed Window

Essential Caregiver

Salon Services



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# Visitation Options

## Resident Status

COVID-Negative

Outdoor

Open Window

Vehicle Parade

Plexiglass

Salon Services

COVID-Negative  
Unknown

Essential  
Caregiver

COVID-Positive  
Negative  
Unknown

Closed  
Window

End-of-Life



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# Essential Caregiver

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Designated essential caregiver can provide supportive, hands-on care to residents with COVID-19 negative and unknown status.

Essential caregivers allowed to visit the resident in their room, outdoors or in their designated space

- one caregiver at a time
- by appointment only

ALFs will outline in their visitation policies the number of designated caregivers that can be in the facility at any given time.



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# Essential Caregiver

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Essential caregivers must have a negative COVID-19 test no more than 14 days before the first visit.

Each essential caregiver must be trained by the ALF on PPE use and infection control, and they must meet the testing requirement.

Each essential caregiver must:

- use PPE
- pass screening
- be escorted into and out of the individual's room



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# Essential Caregiver

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Develop essential caregiver visitation policies and procedures

- First visit – negative test
- Testing strategy
- Training on PPE usage and infection control
- Staff must escort essential caregiver to and from designated visitation area



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# Salon Services

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The following requirements apply to salon services visits:

- Limited to two hours per resident per visit
- May occur outdoors, in the resident's bedroom or another area that limits visitor movement and interaction with other residents
- Salon services visitors must maintain physical distancing between themselves and other residents and staff not receiving salon services



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# Salon Services

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- Similar to essential caregiver requirements
- Develop salon services visitation policies and procedures
  - First visit – negative test
  - Testing strategy
  - Training on PPE usage and infection control
  - Staff must escort salon services visitor to and from designated visitation area



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# Reminders

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Remember:

- Visitation designation is **not required** for essential caregiver or salon services visits.
- Quarantine is **not required** after essential caregiver or salon service visits.



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# Screening

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**How many times a day do staff have to be screened for symptoms?**

Once, at the start of their shift.

**Can the facility screen visitors just inside instead of outside?**

Yes. Screen visitors in an area not inhabited by residents, as close to the entrance as possible.



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# Plexiglass Booths

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As Part of PL 20-38 (with Attestation Form 2194)

- Please send your photos to your Regional Managers for approval.
- Regional contact info:  
<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/find-us/long-term-care-regulatory-regional-contact-numbers>
- Policy, Rules and Training cannot approve nor make recommendations on your plexiglass booths



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# Facemasks and PPE

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## Are essential caregiver visitors required to wear full PPE?

The essential caregiver must wear a facemask and any other appropriate PPE recommended by CDC guidance and the facility's policy.

## Is the facility required to provide facemasks and PPE to essential caregivers?

The facility must approve the essential caregiver's facemask and any other appropriate PPE or provide an approved facemask and other PPE.



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# Tours

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## **Are tours allowed for prospective residents and their families?**

In-person tours of the facility campus are not allowed at this time. The facility may provide virtual tours.

Visitors may tour outside of the facility if there are no residents present.



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# Group Activities

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## **Are group activities and dining allowed for more than 10 people?**

Yes. Group activities and dining for more than 10 residents in the same cohort are allowed provided there is adequate space to maintain physical distancing and infection control policies are followed. Limit the number to allow adequate physical distance for the type of activity. Activities like exercise or singing will want to space greater than 6 feet apart in a well-ventilated area, outdoors possibly.



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# Group Activities

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On October 5<sup>th</sup> the CDC updated their guidance regarding the way COVID-19 spreads addressing airborne transmission at distances of more than 6 feet.

According to the CDC some infections can be spread by exposure to virus in small droplets and particles that can linger in the air for minutes to hours. These viruses may be able to infect people who are further than 6 feet away from the person who is infected or after that person has left the space.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>



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# Halloween Activities

## Trick or Treating and Other Halloween Activities

Updated Oct. 9, 2020

Languages ▾ Print



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays/halloween.html>



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# Testing

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## Who is required to be tested?

Essential caregiver and salon service visitors must have a negative COVID-19 test no more than 14 days before the first visit.

## Is the ALF required to pay for testing?

A facility is required to develop and enforce a testing strategy for designated essential caregivers and salon services visitors but is **not required** to pay for any testing.



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# Testing

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## **How often should essential caregivers be tested?**

An initial test and testing strategy are required for all essential caregivers. However, subsequent testing frequency is not prescribed by rule to allow facilities the flexibility to adjust testing according to their specific situation within the facility and the local community.



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## **Could we admit a new resident and not require quarantine period if they had a negative test?**

No. All new residents must be quarantined for 14 days to monitor for symptoms.

# Testing

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**Does HHSC recommend a specific COVID -19 test?**

Any type of approved commercial COVID test is sufficient.

**Can facilities use the antigen test?**

Any type of approved consumer test for COVID-19 may be used or a facility can require documentation of the negative test taken elsewhere.



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# Testing

Topic	PCR Test	Antigen Test	Antibody (Serology) Test
<b>Why is the test used?</b>	PCR tests look for pieces of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in the nose, throat, or other areas in the respiratory tract to determine if the person has an <b>active infection</b> .	Antigen tests look for pieces of proteins that make up the SARS-CoV-2 virus to determine if the person has an <b>active infection</b> .	Serology looks for antibodies <sup>1</sup> against SARS-CoV-2 in the blood to determine if there was a <b>past infection</b> .
<b>How is the test performed?</b>	In most cases, a nasal or throat swab is taken by a healthcare provider and tested. Sometimes the test can be run while you wait, and sometimes the swab needs to be sent to a lab for testing.	In most cases, a nasal or throat swab is taken by a healthcare provider and tested. Sometimes the test can be run while you wait, and sometimes the swab needs to be sent to a lab for testing.	In most cases, a blood sample is taken and sent to a lab for testing.
<b>What does a positive test result mean?</b>	A positive PCR test means that the person being tested has an active COVID-19 infection.	A positive antigen test means that the person being tested has an active COVID-19 infection.	A positive antibody test means that the person being tested was infected with COVID-19 in the past and that their immune system developed antibodies to try to fight it off.



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# CLIA Waiver

Does an ALF need a **Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)** Certificate of Waiver to administer a COVID-19 test using a rapid POC diagnostic testing device?

Yes, in order to perform the POC test an ALF must have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver or be certified as a laboratory. Apply for a CLIA Certificate of Waiver by completing an application ([Form CMS-116](#)) available on the [CMS CLIA](#) website or the [HHSC Health Care Facilities Regulation - Laboratories](#) website. The applicant submits the application to HHSC HCF Regulation - Laboratories.



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# CLIA Waiver

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If you have any questions about the application process, please call your [CLIA zone office \(PDF\)](#). Please forward completed documents to your appropriate CLIA Zone Office in order for your CLIA application to be accepted and processed. Your application will not be processed until all requested information is received and approved by this office.



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# Rapid Test Distribution

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/testing/rapid-test-distribution/index.html>

All ALFs with a CLIA Certificate of Waiver will receive BinaxNOW tests. Distribution is based on the degree of positivity within counties: ALFs in areas with greater than 10% positivity (red counties) and those in areas with 5-10% positivity (yellow counties) will be prioritized.

- Red counties: test allocation for testing of all staff 2x/week.
- Yellow counties: test allocation for testing of 50% of staff 1x/week.



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# Rapid Test Distribution

For questions regarding the status of your shipment please contact Abbott Customer Service directly at:

- [ARDxUSGovernmentSupport@abbott.com](mailto:ARDxUSGovernmentSupport@abbott.com) or
- 1-877-441-7440

The website for BinaxNOW distribution is live:

<https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/testing/rapid-test-distribution/index.html>



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# PL 20-37

## Reporting Guidance for Long-term Care Providers

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/providers/communications/2020/letters/PL2020-37.pdf>



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Texas Health and Human Services Commission

Cecile Erwin Young  
Executive Commissioner

### Long-Term Care Regulatory Provider Letter

**Number:** PL 20-37

**Title:** Reporting Guidance for Long-term Care Providers

**Provider Types:** Assisted Living Facility (ALF); Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability or Related Conditions (ICF/IID); Nursing Facility (NF)

**Date Issued:** September 9, 2020

# Flu and COVID-19

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With both flu and COVID-19 circulating this season, getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever. Learn more about what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones on the CDC website:

- [FAQs: Flu and COVID-19](#)
- [Getting a Flu Vaccine during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Similarities and Differences between Flu and COVID-19](#)



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# COVID-19 Response For Assisted Living Facilities 3.4

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## Current Plan

<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/provider-portal/long-term-care/covid-response-plan-alf.pdf>



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Lets Share

# Voting



## Voting Information for Residents and Long-Term Care Facilities

Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Issued September 15, 2020

This resource is based on information from the Texas Secretary of State's website at <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/>. Ask questions about this document to the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman at [lrc.ombudsman@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:lrc.ombudsman@hhsc.state.tx.us) or 1-800-252-2412.



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<https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19/voting-info-ltc-residents-families.pdf>

# Voting

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## Important Dates

- **Oct. 13 to 30** - Early Voting by Personal Appearance
- **Oct. 23** - Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (**Received, not** Postmarked)
- **Nov. 3** – Election Day



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# Voting Reminders

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Things to consider if transporting residents to vote:

- Follow infection control protocols
- Maintain physical distancing
- Clean and sanitize vehicle between use



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# LTCR Regional Director Contact Information

## Long-Term Care Regulatory Regional Contact Numbers

[Home](#) / [About HHS](#) / [Find Us](#) / [Long-Term Care Regulatory Regional Contact Numbers](#)

[2020 Inaugural Business Plan](#)

[Budget & Planning](#)

[+ Communication & Events](#)

[+ Community Engagement](#)

[+ Find Us](#)

[+ Jobs at HHS](#)

[+ Leadership](#)

[+ Process Improvement](#)

[+ Records & Statistics](#)

[Vision & Mission](#)

[+ Your Rights](#)

Survey operations has redrawn regional boundaries for survey and investigation purposes. These changes are effective November 1, 2019. [Refer to the map for the new regional boundaries \(PDF\)](#).

### Region 1

Main line: 806-797-8870

Regional director: 806-783-6529

Regional director email: [John.Bertrand@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:John.Bertrand@hhsc.state.tx.us)

### Region 2

Main line: 325-795-5547

Regional director: 325-795-5550

Regional director email: [John.Bertrand@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:John.Bertrand@hhsc.state.tx.us)



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<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/find-us/long-term-care-regulatory-regional-contact-numbers>

# COVID-19 Data for ALFs

## News Release:

### HHSC to Post COVID-19 Data for State Hospitals, SSLCs, Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities

<https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/communications-events/news/2020/07/hhsc-post-covid-19-data-state-hospitals-sslc-nursing-facilities-assisted-living-facilities>

1. Go to the COVID-19 page.

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19>

2. Find Self-reported COVID-19 case counts in ALFs by:

- Facility
- Region

County	Assisted Living Facility Name	Street Address	City	Zip	# of COVID-19 + Employees (cumulative cases)	# of COVID-19 + Residents (cumulative cases)	Total # of Residents Recovered from COVID-19 (cumulative)	Total # of COVID- 19 + Resident Deaths (cumulative)	# of COVID-19 + Residents (cumulative cases)
Statewide Total									
Due to an automation issue, data was not consolidated or reported on July 21, 2020									



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# Gov Delivery

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## 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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# LTC Ombudsman



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## **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:**

Phone: (800) 252-2412 or

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

## **Facebook Live Events**

Weekly Facebook Live Q&A for Families of LTC Residents:

Every Wednesday, 12:15 to 12:45

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



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# Joint Training

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# FAQs

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**Policy, Rules and Training**

# How to Contact

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## **Jennifer Morrison, Manager**

[Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov)

## **Policy Rules and Training Mailbox**

[Policyrulestraining@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:Policyrulestraining@hhsc.state.tx.us)

## **PRT Main Line**

(512) 438-3161

## **COVID-19 Page**

<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/coronavirus-covid-19>

## **ALF Provider Portal**

<https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/assisted-living-facilities-alf>



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**Thank you!**

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