



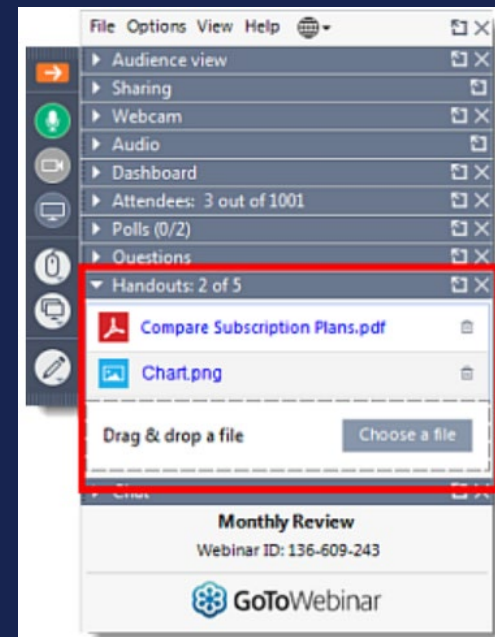
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Welcome to the
ALF Provider
COVID-19 Webinar
with LTCR

December 2, 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.



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COVID-19 Resources

Available resources and tools for ALFs:

- [COVID-19 Response Plan \(3.5.1\)](#)
- COVID-19 Emergency Rules
 - [§553.2001](#)
 - [§553.2003](#)
- Frequently Asked Questions
 - [ALF FAQ \(Updated 11/30/2020\)](#)
- [Provider Letters](#)
- [Texas Division of Emergency Management](#) - interactive map for finding testing resources



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Post-Thanksgiving

Use the question box to let us know what issues or concerns you have regarding residents and/or staff following the Thanksgiving holiday.

- Lessons learned?
- What worked/didn't work?
- Need clarification or guidance?
- Ready for December holidays?



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Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Surging Counties

Upcoming webinar series will:

- inform and prepare ALFs in a specific area of Texas where COVID-19 is surging.
- review area specific data, community/area resources, and highlight specifics of the ALF COVID-19 Response Plan.
- discuss the importance of identifying the root cause of COVID-19 spread in a facility.
- share useful examples and tips that you can use in your response to the pandemic.



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Managing the COVID-19 Crisis in Surging Counties

Register for upcoming webinars:

- **Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Area**
Dec 3, 2020 10:00 a.m. [Register here.](#)
- **Harris Co. and Surrounding Areas**
Dec 7, 2020 10:00 a.m. [Register here.](#)
- **Bexar Co. and Surrounding Areas**
Dec 14, 2020 10:00 a.m. [Register here.](#)
- **El Paso Co. and Surrounding Areas**
Dec 17, 2020 10:00 a.m. [Register here.](#)



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Emergency Staffing Requests

HHSC LTCR offers emergency staff for facilities facing severe critical shortages.

- Emergency staffing is only approved for facilities that can't provide necessary care to residents due to staffing shortages.
- Emergency staffing is temporary while facilities get alternative staffing resources.



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Emergency Staffing Requests

Facilities may only request emergency staffing from HHSC if **all** the following contingency strategies have been exhausted.

- Share staff between unknown COVID-19 status and positive COVID-19 cohorts.
- Contact staffing agencies, nearby health care facilities, health care centers.
- Identify alternate facilities with adequate staffing to care for residents with COVID-19.



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Emergency Staffing Requests

If the facility has implemented or attempted each item listed on the previous slide and still does not have adequate staff to meet critical staffing levels, the facility must [contact the Regional Director for their LTCR Region](#) to request emergency staffing.



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Attestation for Free Testing Kits

HHSC has published a revised [attestation form for free BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen COVID-19 test kits](#) for NF, ALF, ICF, HCS and HCSSA providers.

The form was revised to correct the [BinaxNOW training link](#) required for staff who do not have medical training and will be administering the COVID-19 tests using the BinaxNOW Ag card.



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Attestation for Free Testing Kits

Reminder:

- BinaxNOW point-of-care antigen COVID-19 test kits may only be used to test essential caregivers, not staff, for COVID-19.
- Using the test kits on staff is a contradiction to the signed and submitted attestation form used to obtain the test kits ([Provider Letter 20-49](#)).



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Updated BinaxNOW Training Link

A BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card training video that provides detailed step-by-step guide to the test process is on the Abbott website. The training video is for people without medical training, who will conduct COVID-19 testing using the BinaxNOW Ag card.

The [BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card \(PDF\)](#) is a rapid point-of-care antigen test which detects the presence of antigens in persons infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. This test is approved for use under an Emergency Use Authorization by the Food and Drug Administration.

[View the free online training here](#)



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CMS/CDC Targeted COVID-19 Training for NF, ALF Providers

The following CMS/CDC COVID-19 trainings are available:

- [Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline Staff and Management](#)
- [CMS/CDC Fundamentals of COVID-19 Prevention for Management](#)
- [CMS/CDC Fundamentals of COVID-19 Prevention for Nursing Home Management - Bi-weekly Live Q&A Sessions](#)

Note: Descriptions indicate trainings are geared toward NF staff, however, the key principles are also applicable to ALF staff.



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Reimbursement for COVID-19 Tests

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) administering HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program.

ALFs who have conducted COVID-19 testing of uninsured individuals or administered a COVID-19 vaccine to uninsured individuals can request reimbursement at Medicare rates, subject to available funding.

FAQ and eligibility questions [here](#).



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DSHS Training Video

DSHS Video on Long-term Care Facilities COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Now Available

The Department of State Health Services has published a recorded training for long-term care providers on COVID-19 precautions to take and how to accomplish them.

[View the video training.](#)



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COVID-19 Recovered Essential Caregivers

CDC guidance does not recommend testing those who previously tested positive for COVID-19 and have met [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions](#) for 90 days from:

- symptom onset, or
- First COVID-19 positive test (for those who were asymptomatic)

For essential caregivers that meet this criteria, ALFs must document why they were not tested prior to their first visit or per the ALF's testing strategy for essential caregivers.



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COVID-19 Recovered Essential Caregivers

Documentation should include:

- When the essential care giver was diagnosed or first had symptoms
- The reason why the test was not performed (refer to CDC guidance)
- The results of their screening before entry

After 3 months from the date of the first positive test (asymptomatic) or date of symptom onset (symptomatic cases) testing of the essential caregiver should resume per the ALF's testing strategy.



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Infection Control Reminder

- **Hand hygiene**
- **Use PPE appropriately**
- **Follow Cough Etiquette principals**
- **Properly clean and disinfect as appropriate**
- **Prioritize cleaning and disinfecting of common areas**
- **Encourage residents to change clothes when they come back to ALF**



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ALF CLIA Waiver

To obtain a CLIA Waiver for COVID-19 point of contact testing using a rapid POC diagnostic testing device, [complete Form CMS-116 \(PDF\)](#) available on the [CMS CLIA website](#) or on the [HHSC Health Care Facilities Regulation - Laboratories webpage](#) found under the Application header. Email the form to the regional CLIA licensing group via the [HHSC HCF Regulation – Laboratories webpage](#).



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Provider Letters

- [PL 20-37 Reporting Guidance for Long-Term Care Providers \(Revised\)](#)
- [PL 20-42 COVID-19 Response – Expansion of Reopening Visitation](#)
- [PL 20-46 Reporting Guidance for Long-Term Care Providers – Point-of-Care Antigen Testing \(Revised\)](#)
- [PL 20-48 Transferring COVID-19 Positive Residents](#)



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Provider Letters

- [PL 20-49 Process to Request Free COVID-19 Point of Care Antigen Test Kits \(Revised\)](#)
- [PL 20-50 Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine Guidance during COVID-19](#)
- [PL 20-53 Guidance for Activities, Dining, and Volunteers](#)



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Facility Coordinated Group Activities

- Limited to COVID-19 negative and recovered residents
- May use volunteers or activity contractors
- Limited to 10 activity contractors in the facility
- Number of residents not limited (with physical distancing and infection control guidelines)



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Volunteers

- May provide supplemental tasks to the facility:
 - Monitoring visits
 - Escorting EC
 - Assisting with cleaning
- May host/assist with group activities
- Must pass screening



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Holiday Activities & Outings

Residents have the right to make an informed decision to leave the facility for a holiday activity.

ALFs are not allowed to have a holiday policy restricting residents from leaving the facility.

For example, an ALF can't have a blanket policy like: "No residents may leave the facility for Christmas."



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Holiday Activities & Outings

Per the [COVID-19 Response Rule](#), residents who leave the facility must be placed in the 'unknown COVID-19 status' and quarantined for 14 days upon return if they:

- Have been gone overnight
- Had exposure or close contact with a person who is COVID-19 positive, or who was exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting test results

If a resident does not meet either of these conditions, they do not have to be quarantined upon return.



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Facility Tours

Q: Is it permissible to allow prospective residents and their family members into the facility to take a tour?

A: We recommend that facility tours are conducted virtually. However, an ALF could provide a combination of virtual and in-person tours if appropriate transmission-based precautions are taken for each tour and the ALF has approved general visitation.

Refer to the [ALF FAQ](#) for full response.



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Essential Caregiver

It is acceptable for a family member who is an essential caregiver to give their essential caregiver status to a visiting family member while they visit, provided the facility approves, and all requirements for an essential caregiver are followed, including a negative COVID test prior to the first visit within 14 days before the date of the first visit.

The essential caregiver who temporarily gave their designation to the visiting family member would not be required by HHSC to take a new test prior to resuming their visits.



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Joint Training

Chaplain Services

Are chaplain services allowed in the facility?

CMS is allowing this in NFs. ALFs will follow this lead. Chaplains, clergy, spiritual laymen are allowed to enter the facility. All necessary precautions need to take place and the person needs to be screened.



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Flu and COVID-19

With both flu and COVID-19 circulating, 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 following sites:

- [FAQs: Flu and COVID-19](#)
- [Getting a Flu Vaccine during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Similarities and Differences between Flu and COVID-19](#)
- [PL 20-50 Influenza \(Flu\) Vaccine Guidance during COVID-19](#)



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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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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/



Statewide Intake for an LTC Ombudsman:

Phone: (800) 252-2412 or

Email: 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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FAQ

Policy, Rules and Training

How to Contact

Jennifer Morrison, Manager

Jennifer.morrison@hhs.texas.gov

Policy Rules and Training Mailbox

Policyrulestraining@hhsc.state.tx.us

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!
