What you need to know

This fact sheet provides key updates on practice staffing, testing and treatment, and information to keep your practice viable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Registry**
1. Sign up to administer the COVID-19 Vaccine
2. To enroll, go to [EnrollTexasIZ.dshs.texas.gov](http://EnrollTexasIZ.dshs.texas.gov)
   - Only providers registered through this site can receive and administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas.
   - For questions, call DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Provider hotline at (877) 835-7750 or email COVID19VacEnroll@dshs.texas.gov.

**What to do if a staff member or patient tests positive for COVID-19**
1. The TMA COVID-19 Task Force has created the [COVID-19 Guide for When Someone Tests Positive](https://www.tma.org/mis/Covid-19#Tracing) for basic steps physicians can follow should a staff member or a patient test positive for COVID-19 in their outpatient clinic.
3. The CDC has provided a [Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-providers/criteria-return-to-work.html) to assist staff members in returning to work.

**PPE**
1. TMA has created a [Texas-based PPE vendor guide](https://www.hcms.org/tmaimis/Covid-19#PPE) with contact, ordering, and shipping information to help locate what you need.
2. If you need PPE. Contact the TMA Knowledge Center at (800) 880-7955 for details.

**Treatment and Testing**
1. The FDA approved the antiviral drug Veklury (remdesivir) for use in adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older and weighing about 88 pounds for the treatment of COVID-19 requiring hospitalization. See the [FAQs on Remdesivir](https://www.fda.gov/media/143603/download).
2. FDA approved an emergency use authorization for the investigational monoclonal antibody therapy Bamlanivimab for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adult and pediatric patients. Go to [https://www.fda.gov/media/143603/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/143603/download) for more information.
3. For information on symptoms, asymptomatic infection and clinical management, treatment of COVID-19 patients, and how insurers are paying for treatment, see the [COVID-19 Treatment FAQs](https://www.tma.org/mis/Covid-19#Tracing).

**Testing**
1. The FDA has issued an emergency use authorization for the first COVID-19 diagnostic test for self-testing at home and that provides rapid results. The Lucira COVID-19 All-In-One Test Kit is a molecular (real-time loop mediated amplification reaction) single use test that is intended to detect the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19. The test is available by prescription only. [Click here](https://www.lucirahealth.com/) for details.
2. Harris County Public Health (HCPH) encourages its residents to get tested. For screening information, patients can go to [https://bit.ly/2Ypsp8K](https://bit.ly/2Ypsp8K) or call 832-927-7575.
3. Houston residents also can call the Houston Health Department’s (HHD) COVID-19 Call Center at 832-393-4220, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m., or go to [https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing](https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing) for more testing options.
4. Texas Division of Emergency Management is offering free drive-thru testing. To obtain a test, visit [https://txcovidtest.org](https://txcovidtest.org).

**Contact Tracing**
As physicians, you play a role in stopping the spread of COVID-19. One tool is contact tracing. This begins with a positive test.

- Physicians are encouraged to advise their COVID-19 positive patients to contact the local health departments to start the contact tracing process. Patients will be much more likely to respond positively to a request from their physician than an unknown individual calling from the health department.
- Patients can call HCPH at 832-927-7575 or the HHD at 832-393-4220.
- If a patient does not call, the local health departments will reach out to the individual after the health department receives a report of their positive test.
- Patients should make a list of those individuals with whom they have had close contact starting from 48 hours before illness onset or 48 hours prior to positive test for asymptomatic patients.
  - Close contact is defined as contact within six feet for a total of 10-15 minutes over a 24-hour period.
  - The CDC does not recommend differential determination of close contact for fabric face coverings.
  - However, considerations should be taken if one or more of the individuals wore a N95 respirator.
- Those who have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive person should stay at home, maintain social distancing, and self-monitor until 14 days from last date of exposure. For additional resources on contact tracing, go to [www.hcms.org/tmaimis/Covid-19#Tracing](https://www.hcms.org/tmaimis/Covid-19#Tracing).

**Practice Viability**
2. The [Texas Medical Board](https://www.texasmedicalboard.com/) has issued waivers and guidance on issues surrounding minimum standards of safe practice, telemedicine, license renewal extensions and more.

For additional COVID-19 information, click on the links below:
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services](https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/)
- [TMA COVID-19 Resources Page](https://www.tma.org/tmaimis/Covid-19#PracticeViability)
- [Harris County Medical Society](https://www.hcms.org/tmaimis/Covid-19#PracticeViability)

If you have questions, concerns or feedback, contact us at [webadmin@hcms.org](mailto:webadmin@hcms.org).