



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

Abilene State Supported Living Center

**OUR MISSION:**  
To empower people to make choices  
that result in a life of dignity and  
increased independence.

# AbSSLC News

Abilene SSLC

Week of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## COVID19 Testing

We will now be testing **1 day** for each round as noted below. All staff will test on the same day.

### Round 1

**Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
0530-1130 & 1300-1500

### Round 2

**Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**  
0530-1130 & 1300-1500

**You must test both rounds each week**

## AbSSLC COVID19 Status

As of Friday, 02.04.2022

|                                              |    |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of Individuals Positive               | 4  |
| Number of Individuals currently in Isolation | 4  |
| Number of Staff Positive                     | 22 |

## Questions & Answers

**Q:** Why won't the state pay for damage to my vehicle done by someone that lives here?

**A:** This is a pretty common question and we are actually bound by State Law. The Texas Tort Claims Act does not authorize the payment of property damaged caused by HHS clients and/or residents of its facilities. Unless the law itself is changed by the State Legislature, the facility isn't allowed to pay for property damage.

**Q:** I have heard that someone had their glasses replaced because someone living here broke them. Isn't that the same thing?

**A:** We actually **are** allowed to pay for **glasses** or other **medically prescribed items** if damaged by someone living at AbSSLC. Again, this is guided by state law.

## 10 Key Points about Black History Month

- 1) The current population of Black and African Americans makes up 46.9 million, the U.S. Census Bureau reports. Also, 89.4% of African Americans age 25 and older had a high school diploma or higher in 2020, as Fox10 Phoenix reported.
- 2) A founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History organization, Carter G. Woodson, first had the idea of this month-long celebration. Woodson was born in 1875 to newly freed Virginia slaves. He later earned a Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. He worried that Black children were not being taught about their ancestors' achievements in American schools in the early 1900s, as Fox 10 noted.
- 3) By the late 1960s, Negro History Week — the precursor for this month's celebrations and events — changed into what is now known as Black History Month.
- 4) The month of February was picked for Black History Month because it contained the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln was born on Feb. 12, and Douglass, a former slave who did not know his precise birthday, celebrated his date of birth on Feb. 14, Fox 10 also noted.
- 5) ASALH has celebrated Negro History Week and Black History Month for 95 years.
- 6) Fifty years after the first celebrations, then-President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month at the country's 1976 bicentennial. Ford called on Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history," as History.com noted.
- 7) Forty years after Ford's recognition of Black History Month, then-President Barack Obama delivered this message, in part, from the White House: "Black History Month shouldn't be treated as though it is somehow separate from our collective American history or somehow just boiled down to a compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington or from some of our sports heroes ... It's about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans."
- 8) Canada also commemorates Black History Month in February.
- 9) At the time of Negro History Week's launch in 1926, Woodson believed the teaching of Black history was key to the physical and intellectual survival of the race within society: "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated," he said in part, as the Journal of Negro History reported.
- 10) While this year's theme for Black History Month is Black health and wellness, past themes have included the family, Black migrations, and Black women in American culture and history, among others.

# Shout Outs!

A Big Shout Out goes to **Transportation** and **Recreation** staff!! The support they have provided during the 2022 SNOVID storm has been nothing but spectacular! I want to give special thanks to **Cindy Bowman** and **Ernest Lindley** for heading up all of the efforts in getting the staff to campus so that the individuals were well cared for during the storm. Special thanks go to transportation drivers **Alberto, Bobby, Jeff (Tobe), Aaron, Kevin, Emilio, Shane,** and **Sal**. Special thanks also go to the Recreation staff **Ashley Marrow, Justin,** and **Ashley Guerra**. Campus could not have made it without them during this storm!!

I wanted to give a shout out to **Maria Schmidt** from Activity Centers. She worked at 6521 Peach with me and 2 other HAB staff s on Friday 1/21 for the 2-10 shift. Maria is a SUPER HARD worker and she was a fabulous partner to Jonathan for the night. I appreciated her knowledge as she had worked as a DSP in the home on other shifts so she really helped things run smoothly that night.

**Ashley Marrow** from Recreation deserves a serious Shout Out - she was my partner at 2-10 at 6510 Peach on 1/22 and she was awesome! Her communication style and easygoing manner made me and the individuals feel at ease! She was so much fun to work with and it made the time fly!

Lastly a shout out to the shift lead, **Elena Moreno Joy** at 6510 Peach on 1/22/22 on 2-10pm shift. She was so helpful and welcoming to us staff that came in to help. She was an excellent partner as we worked on completing baths and it is evident that she really cares for the ladies and gentlemen at 6510. She also had a really critical eye and caught several things on positioning plans and supports that HAB needed to address and I was grateful for her honest feedback! She also held over to work on the 10-6 shift that night, so I know she has been pulling a lot of extra hours with the staff shortage. She has a lot of leadership skills that are keeping 6510 running smoothly!

Recreation would like to shout out to the **FCT&D staff** and the **NEPT class** for coming over and helping move lots of Christmas figurines upstairs for storage. There were around 60+ to move and it saved Recreation staff lots of trips up and down the stairs. THANKS - we appreciate you!

Shout Out to BHS **Emily Sterpka** for helping work with counseling services to give support to those who need it.

I want to second the Shout Out for **Emily Sterpka** and add **Sarah Connell**. They double timed it and stepped in to assist a gentleman in crisis without hesitation going above and beyond

Shout Out to **QIDP Will McFarland** for working hard and being willing to listen.

I want to shout out to **home staff at 6510 Peach**. I'm from Rec and have been working 2-10 three times a week. Home staff have been very welcoming and giving great guidance on working the shift. A huge shoutout to **Marabelle**, she's pregnant, her due date 2 weeks away and she's giving 100% every day she's here. OTPT/HAB staff are also helping out 2-10 and I've worked with several of them on the home and it's been a great working relationship. It makes my heart happy caring for our residents and that all staff from every department are coming together. I am grateful for the experience and knowledge I've gained working the homes.

Shout Out to a Trio of men that I so appreciate: Talking about the extra cold weather coming ... did they get that water drained from basement Room 1149 at 6521 Peach. We so appreciated **JT** and **Perry** coming out to fix the broken pipe Saturday night/Sunday am. **Jay** with Security also was helping with them having to have extra hands for cutting the pipe and putting threads on to make the repair. That water could have been 4 feet deep—not sure when water got turned off it went down some but JT had to use waders to get repairs done.

Want to give a shout out to our housekeeper **Diana**. I just saw her helping an individual to the ER, he fell outside of our building and Diana help him to the ER & was talking to him keeping him calm. Also the other day while she was taking out the trash to the dumpster, she saw another individual with his pants caught in his bicycle chain, she came in and told **Richard** from the Pharmacy, they went out and got his pants unstuck. A tribute to the unsung heroes that work at AbSSLC.

I want to give a big SHOUT OUT to **Amy Gleaton**, Habilitation Therapies Director. She has been working shifts on some of the homes to help with coverage. She is one of a kind and I am proud to know she is on our Team!

I would like to Shout-out for **Alberto Landeros** at transportation who picked us up on a snowy day. He assisted Dr. Williams with a true caring heart.

A special Shout Out to **Kenny Dry & Doug King** with Maintenance. They stayed on campus from Wednesday morning until Friday afternoon to make sure all was well with the cold and snow!

Send your ShoutOut to recognize the amazing work done for those living & working at AbSSLC!