

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

EOEA just released an updated guidance for assisted living residences during the COVID-19 outbreak. Mass-ALA provided suggestions to EOEA in mid-December, soon after learning that the updated DPH guidance for long-term care settings not including assisted living would be adapted into a new guidance for assisted living. Those suggestions included that surveillance testing continue to be recommended rather than mandated, that some of the DPH guidance recommendations would not be appropriate for assisted living as they are more in line with staffing for other settings, and that communal dining and activities continue to be allowed at the option of the residence. We also pointed out particular sections that should be in the form of recommendations, and that particular sections were not applicable to ALRs.

We greatly appreciate EOEA's careful consideration of these new policies. This guidance shares many of the best practices that were developed based on findings from EOEA's follow-up with residences experiencing COVID-19 clusters. Please note that the Appendix A Assisted Living Residence Outbreak Prevention and Management Checklist is all new content, but only the title of that section is in red. We will continue to solicit members' feedback and recommendations and to advocate for the assisted living community in the development of new policies.

Below you will find the message from Patricia Marchetti and a link to the full guidance.

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Good Afternoon,

The attached document has been developed to replace all previously issued memoranda and FAQs from EOEA. The consolidated guidance should be used as the primary source of reference for the Assisted Living Residences effective January 20, 2020.

If you have any questions please submit them to the ALRHelp email which is copied above.

Thank you,

Trisha Marchetti

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[View The Full Guidance  
Here](#)

*If you have any questions, please contact, [MassALA@mass-ala.org](mailto:MassALA@mass-ala.org)*

*\*The information provided in this COVID 19 update is solely for general informational purposes to assist in understanding the evolving guidance regarding the current COVID 19 public health threat. It is not intended to be a primary public health or medical resource, but is provided as a clearinghouse for or compilation of various guidance issued by official and related sources.*

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