

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

We are pleased to share welcome news from EOEA today: ALRs with CLIA waivers will have access to apply for many more free point-of-care tests from the state supply. The number of tests ALRs with CLIA waivers can request has been increased to four times the number of certified units in the ALR per month. The tests may now be requested through March. Allowable uses of point-of-care tests in ALRs have also been expanded. Assisted living access to these tests was originally scheduled to end on January 31st, allowed one request rather than monthly requests, and the number of tests was initially limited to roughly half the number of certified units in the ALR. Mass-ALA has been advocating for increased testing supplies in assisted living, and we greatly appreciate this expanded access, which will help keep residents and staff safe.

Please note that only ALRs with CLIA waivers may apply to the state for these free point-of-care tests. Here is our [update](#) from 12/16 about how to apply for CLIA waivers.

Please note that there are specific minimum requirements that must be in place in order to successfully request test kits. Those minimum requirements are listed below. 1. Have an approved CLIA Certificate of Waiver ([here is the process for how to apply for CLIA waivers](#)) 2. Secure a signed provider order for testing 3. Maintain an adequate supply of PPE 4. Review consent forms 5. Ensure all staff performing testing meet training requirements (see Appendix A) 6. Report test results to DPH All ALRs must complete the above requirements and submit an attestation via the online survey ALR BinaxNOW Test Kit Checklist prior to distribution of Abbott BinaxNOW test kit(s) attestations.

Please view the message below from Secretary Chen, and the full guidance [here](#), as well as the COVID-19 test reporting template [here](#).

Good Afternoon,

I am sending this email is being sent on behalf of EOEA Secretary Elizabeth Chen concerning an update on the distribution of the BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing kits.

Dear Colleagues,

[Attached](#) please find updated guidance for BinaxNOW Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing for Assisted Living Residences. This memorandum replaces the memorandum issued on December 30, 2020 and is effective as of February 1, 2021. Content changes from December 30 are reflected in red text. This updated memorandum increases the maximum amount of BinaxNOW tests for Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) to four per certified unit, extends the ability to request through the months of February and March, and expands the ALR's permitted use of the BinaxNOW test kits supplied by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

*Thank you,
Secretary Chen*

Thank you,

Patricia C. Marchetti

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[READ THE FULL GUIDANCE HERE](#)

If you have any questions, please contact, 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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