

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



**Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.**

Dear Members,

DPH released an updated surveillance testing policy [guidance](#) with an effective date of March 18, 2021. While compliance with this policy is mandated for skilled nursing facilities and rest homes, it remains as a recommendation relative to assisted living residences, which has been the case in all previous surveillance testing guidances.

The policy changes reflect the trend in decreasing community transmission of the COVID-19 virus as well as the success of the vaccine distribution among skilled nursing facilities, rest homes, and assisted living residents and staff. Staff who are fully vaccinated (14 days or more from receiving the final dose in the series) are now recommended to only be tested every other week as opposed to weekly testing. For the full guidance, please see this [link](#).

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***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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