

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

---

Dear Members,

We are pleased to share good news for assisted living providers: the Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued an order that avoids a lapse in the provision of skilled services and flexibilities in staffing/training in assisted living residences, which had previously been allowed since 4/2/2020 under the prior State of Emergency.

The document can be seen [here](#) in its entirety, with the portion that relates specifically to ALRs on page 6, Attachment C. The Order applies to all assisted living residences that are certified by EOEA and shall remain in effect until 12:01 a.m. on September 15, 2021. Under this order, ALRs may continue to do the following:

- Provide skilled services (in accordance with valid medical orders), provided the nurse holds a valid license to provide such care.
- Staff special care with fewer than two staff members in a Special Care Residence, provided ALRs can ensure sufficient staffing at all times to meet the needs of residents, as we expect to be stipulated in forthcoming guidance issued by EOEA
- Utilize training flexibilities, with the requirement set forth in 651 CMR 12.07 waived, provided ALRs procure staff with adequate experience and provide on-the-job training in order to ensure safety, set forth in guidance we expect to be issued by EOEA.

EOEA plans to issue a guidance on this soon, but Mass-ALA wanted to provide this information as soon as it was available. The legislature is considering issuing their own extension of these orders, which could potentially extend them to a later date. Mass-ALA continues to advocate for that, and we will update you if and when additional extensions are granted, but we remain grateful for the current consideration extended by the Administration.

***If you have any questions, please contact us at [Mass-ALA@mass-ala.org](mailto:Mass-ALA@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.*

---