

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Following the May 28th, 2021 order from Governor Baker, which rescinds the March 10, 2020 State of Emergency as of June 15, 2021, EOEА has issued a [guidance](#) for ALRs which replaces the March 17th guidance and will go into effect as of June 15th. Mass-ALA has advocated for a guidance that specifically speaks to issues in assisted living and we appreciate EOEА providing this critical information. Issues addressed in their guidance include the following:

- Face coverings for staff, residents, and visitors – including relevant vaccine status factors. The autonomy reflected as it relates to vaccinated residents and visitors is greatly appreciated and will surely be welcome news to assisted living residents and their families.
- Reporting of new COVID-19 cases – through the [REDCap system](#); critical incidents to be submitted to EOEА via [Dynamics](#)
- Considerations during times of high community transmission – infection control practices, including regular and frequent audits, staffing patterns, resident leaves of absence, and special considerations unique to Special Care Units
- Workforce safety – link included for healthcare providers
- Testing – for staff and residents, Point of Care rapid diagnostic testing, surveillance testing, and outbreak testing – including recommendations and when follow-up PCR tests are needed
- In-person visits – vaccine status, face coverings, shared unit guidelines, and limitations on in-person visits
- Hand hygiene – [best practices for staff, residents, and visitors](#)
- PPE – [updated guidance on PPE use and training](#)
- Surface hygiene – [best practice](#)
- Communal dining and group activities – indoor group entertainment and activities allowed; singing and wind instruments are no longer prohibited. (This reflects a change from the March 17th guidance.)
- Quarantine – limitations under the landlord tenant law
- Relevant links to [CDC](#), [CMS](#), and [Massachusetts DPH websites](#)

You may access the full guidance from EOEА [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact us at 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.*