

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

The state announced today that it will be expanding its vaccine mandate to include assisted living residences, rest homes, hospice programs, and home care workers. EOEА will be issuing the COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all staff in an emergency regulation that will be forthcoming. Please read the expanded vaccine mandate summary [here](#). As we updated you in a message on [August 12](#), Mass-ALA supports vaccine mandates for all assisted living staff, as well as for all health care providers and vendors providing services in assisted living residences. We appreciate EOEА taking this step to protect residents and staff to promote a healthy and safe environment in assisted living.

The requirements for assisted living residences will include that:

- ALRs will collect and maintain proof of current COVID-19 vaccination and make such information available for EOEА review after October 31, 2021.
- EOEА may issue an admission freeze on an ALR if less than 100% of staff who do not otherwise qualify for an exemption, are not vaccinated by October 31, 2021.

Information provided today with regard to exemptions is as follows:

Consistent with other state COVID-19 vaccination requirements, an individual will not be required to provide proof of vaccination:

- If the vaccine is medically contraindicated and the individual's job is such that the employer can offer a reasonable accommodation to avoid the risk of contracting/transmitting COVID on the job; or
- If the individual objects to vaccination based on a sincere religious belief and the individual's job are such that the employer can offer a reasonable accommodation to avoid the risk of contracting/transmitting COVID on the job.

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**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.*

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