

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has recently updated two guidance documents ([found here](#) and [here](#)), consistent with recent updates by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.) These documents relate to surveillance testing and caring for residents during the pandemic and update the documents originally issued on August 4th, 2021.

Given that Surveillance Testing is only *recommended* (not required) for ALRs, we realize that some of you may not be engaged in that practice. However, we also recognize that many ALRs are, indeed, conducting the recommended surveillance testing, in which case, the surveillance testing update would be relevant. The original 4th memo states that, if a staff member tests positive, all residents/staff should be tested within 48 hours. The updated guidance states that (i) such testing must occur only if the staff member worked while potentially infectious, and (ii) if the exposure occurred less than 2 days prior to the test, then testing of residents/staff should occur at least two days after exposure and not before that time frame.

To read the updated surveillance testing guidance memo to assisted living residences, click [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.*

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