

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

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Dear Members,

Last month, we informed you that EOEA had filed ALR emergency regulations regarding the COVID-19 vaccine requirement for all Assisted Living Residence personnel. These emergency regulations were added in the section that addresses mandates for influenza vaccines.

In their related guidance issued today, EOEA informs us that there will not be a separate reporting process for the COVID-19 vaccine mandate, but instead, documentation must be maintained in the internal records of each ALR. ALRs shall ensure that all documentation required to be maintained under 651 CMR 12.06(9)(f), including proof of current COVID-19 vaccine or a declination statement for all personnel, is available for review by EOEA by October 31, 2021. Such documentation will be reviewed by EOEA during any Compliance Review conducted after October 31, 2021.

Please see below for the guidance issued today by EOEA Secretary Chen.

In an additional update today, EOEA has announced COVID-19 booster availability for all three vaccines. The details are below. The CDC announcement announcing approval and recommendation of boosters is available [here](#).

**Both Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 booster shots are now available to:**

- Individuals 65 years and older
- Individuals 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Individuals 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Individuals 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

**Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 booster shots are now available to:**

- All individuals 18 and older who received a single dose of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine at least 2 months ago.

**To make an appointment and find a location for a COVID-19 booster:**

- Visit the VaxFinder tool at [vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov) for a full list of locations. Residents are able to narrow results to search for locations that are offering boosters, with appointments available now for booking. Many locations are booking appointments out weeks in advance.
- For individuals who are unable to use VaxFinder, or have difficulty accessing the internet, the COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line (Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday and Sunday 9 AM-2 PM) is available by calling 2-1-1 and following the prompts for assistance. The COVID-19 Vaccine Resource Line is available in English and Spanish and has translators available to in approximately 100 additional languages.

**For additional information and FAQs, visit [mass.gov/COVID19booster](https://mass.gov/COVID19booster).**

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**TO:** Assisted Living Residences Executive Directors  
**FROM:** Executive Office of Elder Affairs Secretary Elizabeth Chen  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Vaccine  
**DATE:** **October 21, 2021**

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) continues to work with state, federal and local partners to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. EOEA understands the important role that Assisted Living Residences (ALR) serve in caring for Massachusetts residents. The purpose of this guidance is to inform ALRs of the vaccine requirements for ALR personnel pursuant to [651 CMR 12.00 CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCES](#) and collect the relevant vaccination data for their facility.

651 CMR 12.06(9)(f) requires COVID-19 vaccination for ALR personnel. 651 CMR 12.09(9)(f)(2) states that ALRs shall ensure that all personnel maintain full COVID-19 vaccination “*consistent with any guidelines, schedule, and reporting requirements established by the Secretary.*”

In accordance with the regulation, ALRs shall ensure that all documentation required to be maintained under 651 CMR 12.06(9)(f), including proof of current COVID-19 or a declination statement for all personnel, is available for review by EOEA by October 31, 2021. Such documentation will be reviewed by EOEA during any Compliance Review conducted after October 31, 2021.

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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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