

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

On August 10th, Mass-ALA [sent an email](#) sharing two guidances from EOEA.

One of those guidances extended the ability of Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) to request BinaxNOW Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 test kits until October 31, 2021.

A memorandum issued yesterday, which replaces the memorandum issued on August 9th and is effective immediately, extends the ability of Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) to request BinaxNOW Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 test kits until **December 31, 2021**. BinaxNOW test kits are available for use at Assisted Living Residences (ALR) for the purpose of testing staff who are not fully vaccinated prior to the beginning of each shift, staff who feel they are at increased risk of exposure, testing visitors, and symptomatic staff and residents as well as close contacts, at no cost to the ALR. ALRs may request a prescribed number of BinaxNOW test kits from the Department of Public Health until **December 31st, 2021**.

This guidance provides information to ALRs on how to request BinaxNOW test kits from DPH, updates, and clarifications to the situations in which kits requested from DPH may be used, and what documentation and protocols must be in place prior to an LTC Facility requesting test kits. Please [click here](#) to view the document in its entirety.

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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