

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Mass-ALA has successfully advocated for multiple extensions of the policy of assisted living providers with CLIA waivers being able to request free rapid COVID-19 tests from the state. In a memorandum issued today, which replaces the original August memorandum, **EOEA is further extending the ability of ALRs to request BinaxNOW test kits until March 31st, 2022, effective immediately.** These tests shall remain available for use at Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) 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 March 31st, 2022. Today's guidance also 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.

For those ALRs that have not yet acquired a CLIA waiver, please see the [Mass-ALA memo](#) that provides details on obtaining one.

We are grateful for this extension granted by EOEA, especially as we are in challenging times, once again. EOEA has advised ALRs to plan to source their own Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 test kits beyond March 31st, 2022. We will keep you updated on any further developments related to this policy.

Please click [here](#) to view the document in its entirety, and click [here](#) to download the assisted living residence maximum order volumes spreadsheet.

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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