

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Mass-ALA has advocated for multiple previous extensions to the period of time during which assisted living providers with CLIA Waivers were able to request free rapid COVID-19 tests from the state. This extended period was due to end on March 31st, 2022. In a memorandum issued today, **EOEA announced the ability of ALRs to request BinaxNOW test kits from the Department of Public Health until June 30th, 2022**

These tests continue to be available for use at Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) with an appropriate CLIA waiver 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. Additionally, the EOEA announcement repeated prior guidance 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 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 remain in challenging times. EOEA has advised ALRs to plan to source their own Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 test kits beyond June 30th, 2022. We will keep you updated on any further developments related to this policy. Please click [here](#) to view the document in its entirety, which includes links to several resources related to access of tests, visitation guidance, proper PPE use, and other helpful information from the CDC and DPH.

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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