

Updated Resources for COVID-19 Prevention, Preparation, and Response

Dear Members,

We have been engaged in providing resources for providers in response to recent COVID-19 outbreaks. The difference between this and prior instances of increased community-spread of COVID-19 include the availability of an abundance of best practices and interventions available for prevention, response, and treatment, and enhanced protection for residents and staff through full vaccination and boosters. Mass-ALA's role in this situation is to connect providers with the resources that can empower you to prevent and respond in optimal ways. Here is a summary of those resources, strategies, and state policies and expectations.

Prevention

Providers have utilized infection control audits to ensure the best policies are being followed at their residence. As a reminder, every ALR was [required](#) to complete an infection control audit and report it to EOEA by 12/15/21.

Full vaccination and boosters are also vitally important for prevention. Mass-ALA strongly encourages all staff to get boosters. That announcement and a reminder of the reporting of boosters required of every ALR by 12/15/21 is available [here](#).

We are offering a webinar on infection control with a presentation from Donna Nucci RN, MS, CIC of Yale, on January 25. Register [here](#).

Preparation

There are specific steps to take in preparing for a potential outbreak. Many of those steps are covered in the slides from the EOEA/DPH webinar, which are available [here](#). Preparation can also be done by following the recommendations [here](#) with respect to monoclonal antibody therapy.

If you conducted an internal infection control audit and think that an audit from an outside infection control consultant would benefit your ALR, you can access a list of infection control auditors [here](#).

Response

The state has been providing resources to ALRs when there are outbreaks. These may include: advice from epidemiologists, phone calls for consultation with EOEA and/or DPH, and dispatching a rapid response team to help care for residents and provide some treatments when there is a physician order, such as for monoclonal antibody infusions. Secretary Chen's [letter](#) addressing *Recent COVID-19 Outbreaks in ALRs* provided guidance and recommendations on how to work with the state in response to outbreaks. If you have any positive results from COVID-19 rapid point-of-care testing in your building, even if it's only one, please call the DPH epidemiology line (617-983-6800, *Option 3*), which is staffed 24/7 to discuss the nature of your outbreak, your ALR's physical and staffing configuration, and request advice on how to continue group dining and social engagement opportunities for residents.

The slides of the December 1 [webinar](#) provided additional guidance on coordinating with the state in response and setting expectations.

For services such as standing physician orders or having orders written for pcr testing or monoclonal therapy, [here](#) is a list of physician groups that have been working with ALRs on those issues. Here is [monoclonal antibody information](#) from the state for providers and patients. For a map of monoclonal antibody therapy provider locations, click [here](#). In some cases, the state's rapid response team has administered monoclonal antibody therapy when there are doctors orders and resident/family consent.

I hope that this summary of resources for prevention, preparation, and response is helpful to you. If you have any questions, please contact us at Mass-ALA@mass-ala.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Doherty, CAE
President & CEO

**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.*