

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

The Dept. of Public Health has shared updates regarding surveillance testing as well as changes to their Caring for LTC Residents During COVID-19 guidance. While compliance with the testing program is required for nursing homes and rest homes, it remains a recommended practice for ALRs. This guidance replaces [Updates to Long-Term Care Surveillance Testing](#) guidance issued on September 24, 2021 and the [Antigen Rapid Point of Care COVID-19 Testing for Long-Term Care \(LTC\) Facility Visitors](#) guidance issued on April 4, 2022. This latest guidance will be effective as of July 1, 2022.

For those ALRs that choose to follow the updated LTC Surveillance Testing Guidance, it requires weekly surveillance testing (molecular or antigen) for staff who are up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and twice weekly testing for staff who are not up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Please note that the CDC defines the term “up to date” as an individual having received the vaccinations that are recommended and for which they are eligible. It generally refers to an individual who has had an initial set of vaccinations, plus one booster. Having received a second booster is not necessary to be considered up to date at this time.

The CDC website offers a “Find Out When to Get a Booster” tool that can be used to determine when or if an individual can get one or more COVID-19 boosters. While the tool is intended to help people in making decisions about getting COVID-19 vaccinations, it should not be used to diagnose or treat COVID-19. You may access the tool here. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html#when-you-can-get-booster>

The Caring for LTC Resident during COVID-19 guidance also was updated by DPH. This guidance does not directly apply to ALRs; however, there are specific sections applicable to health care personnel licensed by DPH, which includes nurses working in ALRs. It is provided for your information.

Both guidances, effective July 1, 2022, can be accessed below.

[LTC Surveillance Testing Guidance](#)
[Caring for LTC Resident During COVID-19](#)

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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