

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Mass-ALA has successfully advocated for another extension to the health services, staffing, and training flexibilities. Governor Healey signed a supplemental budget today that included an extension to March 31, 2024, for these flexibilities. Prior to this action, the flexibilities had been scheduled to expire March 31, 2023. We applaud the Legislature and Governor Healey for extending these important provisions.

Here is section 23, Chapter 20, Acts of 2021, as amended by the new law.

SECTION 23. Notwithstanding section 11 of chapter 19D of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, until March 31, 2024: (i) a nurse employed by an assisted living residence that is certified by the executive office of elder affairs may provide skilled nursing care in accordance with valid medical orders if the nurse holds a valid license to provide such care; (ii) an assisted living residence may retain residents who require skilled care for more than 90 consecutive days; (iii) the staffing requirements in 651 CMR 12.06(5)(b) shall not apply; provided, however, that an assisted living residence ensures that it has sufficient staffing at all times to meet the needs of the residents, as set out in guidance issued by the executive office of elder affairs on April 2, 2020; and (iv) the training requirements set out in 651 CMR 12.07 shall not apply; provided, however, that an assisted living residence shall procure staff with adequate experience and provide on-the-job training to safely perform their duties, as set out in said guidance issued by the executive office of elder affairs on April 2, 2020.

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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