

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

As we approach the May 11 termination of the Public Health Emergency, Mass-ALA remains watchful for updates regarding any possible changes, including the use of PPE, that are relevant to assisted living.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health issued a Comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance for health care personnel (HCP) serving in health care facilities, which refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings and emergency medical services (EMS) who have the potential for exposure to patients or infectious materials. While the DPH guidance is not directed at ALRs, the guidance given health care licensed facilities is typically adopted in some form by EOE and may be helpful as each ALR reviews the steps it needs to take as the public health emergency ends. The update specifies that the order requiring universal facemask use for all individuals in health care settings will terminate, concurrently with the termination of the Public Health Emergency.

Given the termination of the requirement of the use of facemasks, the DPH also issued an additional guidance regarding infection prevention and control. This guidance emphasizes the expectation that health care facilities and EMS providers develop and update their infection prevention and control policies to mitigate the risk of transmission of all respiratory illnesses within their facilities.

Both DPH updates can be accessed by clicking this [link](#) and this [link](#). Mass-ALA will continue to provide updates regarding policies that may impact assisted living and will inform members of changes as new communications are received.

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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