

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

As MA continues to see extremely high levels of infection, the days ahead are expected to be difficult. We are currently witnessing an increase in hospitalizations daily and MA is seeing in excess of 2,500 confirmed cases of COVID-19 per day. Thousands of extra beds have been put aside to address the surge, which has arrived, according to Governor Baker. The importance of protecting those not yet infected cannot be overstated. As older COVID-19 patients require treatment and ultimately, recover from the acute illness associated with the virus, plans for housing them during this time must be addressed.

These patients will need ongoing support as they continue to recuperate, but to send them home to an assisted living setting would pose a threat to those residents and employees who have not been affected by the virus. Alternate facilities are available and the information below is being provided in order to guide you as you assist residents and their families in accessing the best care while maintaining the safest environment possible for all. Here is information from EOEAL on how to access these facilities:

## **Information on Alternate Facilities for COVID-19 Positive ALR Residents: April 17, 2020**

- Identify and document COVID-19 positive resident requiring alternate care locations (home/family home or NF/Other). For residents enrolled in a managed health care plan, such as SCO, PACE; resident/family should engage with managed health care plan for options.
- When a resident is in need of skilled care, get appropriate consent to relocate if a COVID care facility is available.
- ALR, resident, family should discuss which designated COVID-19 care facility is best option for recovery (based location, personal preference, closeness to family, etc)
- ALR should contact the COVID care facility for bed availability and

admission

- ALR should assist in the physical move of the resident into the COVID care facility.
- Note: MassHealth consumers do not need Level of Care/Clinical Eligibility Screenings for individuals entering a designated COVID care facility.

### **Dedicated Care Capacity at Nursing Facilities for COVID-19:**

[https://www.mass-ala.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-NF-Notice\\_4\\_17\\_20.pdf](https://www.mass-ala.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-NF-Notice_4_17_20.pdf)

This notice identifies facilities that are accepting COVID-19 patients for nursing facility levels of care. Please refer to the charts for distinction between those facilities offering dedicated space and those offering isolated space, both of which are available to assist acute care hospitals in providing care.

### **Expanded Care Capacity at Sub-Acute Sites for COVID-19 Patients:**

<https://www.mass-ala.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CDRH-notice-updated20041420-002.pdf>

This notice identifies chronic disease and rehabilitation hospitals (CDRHs) that can provide dedicated and isolated space for COVID-19 patients requiring sub-acute levels of care, including respiratory support as needed.

***Please contact us if you have any questions at, [MassALA@mass-ala.org](mailto:MassALA@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.*