

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

GAFC Guidelines Expanded

Dear Members,

In response to the threat posed by the Coronavirus, MassHealth has issued an update regarding their expansion of GAFC guidelines in addition to the initial GAFC flexibilities issued [last week](#). Please note that these expanded guidelines, initiated to preserve health system capacity and to reduce exposure and transmission of illness to the extent possible, are for the duration of the state of emergency.



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Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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www.mass.gov/eohhs

April 3, 2020

Dear GAFC Provider,

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, MassHealth is committed to enabling GAFC members to remain in their homes to reduce exposure and transmission, to the extent possible, and to preserve health system capacity for the duration of this public health emergency.

To that end, MassHealth will allow the following expansions to existing GAFC guidelines for the duration of the state of emergency declared via Executive Order No. 591.

Direct Care Aide Workers

A Group Adult Foster Care Provider Agency may employ a family member of a member as the member's Direct Care Aide, provided the

family member meets all direct care aide qualifications and is **not** a legally responsible relative of the member, as defined below.
Legally Responsible Relative: a spouse; parent of a minor child including foster parent and adoptive parent; and legally responsible relatives inclusive of legal guardians who are related to the member. Pursuant to federal regulations under 42 CFR 440.167, legally responsible relatives are not permitted to be paid-caregivers of personal care services, which includes GAFC.
Providers must clearly document in the member record if a direct care aide is a family member of the member receiving GAFC services and the direct care aide's relation to the member.

Qualified Setting Requirements

In order to maintain access to GAFC services for members eligible to receive GAFC services and to ensure continuity of care, providers may provide GAFC services in alternate settings, other than those listed below. Providers must document in the member record if services are being provided in an alternative setting and describe the setting.

Please Note: GAFC services cannot be provided to a member who is a resident or inpatient of a hospital, nursing facility, ICF/IID, or provider operated residential facility subject to state licensure such as group homes licensed by DDS or DMH.

Sincerely,

Allison Ananis
Program Manager, Adult Foster Care/Group Adult Foster Care
MassHealth Office of Long Term Services and Supports

Please contact us if you have any questions at, MassALA@mass-ala.org

[Read The Full Memo Here](#)

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