

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

An emergency waiver issued yesterday requires all ALR staff to be vaccinated with the seasonal influenza vaccine by December 31, 2020. The allowable reasons to decline the influenza vaccine were reduced from three to two. Please note there is also an expansive definition of "staff". Vaccination records must be tracked and reported by January 15, 2020. There are specific exceptions and detailed instructions for meeting the requirements, all of which are included in this guidance, which you can read in full [here](#). In addition to the guidance, EOEA provided this list of [resources](#).

As ALRs offer vaccine clinics and guide staff toward meeting the requirements of today's emergency waiver, it is of critical importance to also consider the guidance regarding registration with the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). The requirement to register does not apply to all ALRs across the board. It is the responsibility of each ALR to determine whether they must register or not.

ALRs initially received notices that they should register with the MIIS, and Mass-ALA followed up on behalf of members to request clarification, as we did not believe that this applied to all ALRs. We are pleased to share that the message which was sent from MIIS to ALRs reflects our understanding. The full clarification message from the state is available [here](#).

If your staff does not currently administer immunizations nor is planning to in the future, you do not need to register for the MIIS. Also, if you simply host a vaccine clinic via an outside agency, the outside agency is responsible for registering for the MIIS and reporting immunization data to them.

If your staff currently directly administers immunizations at your ALR or is planning to do so in the future, you must comply with the state mandate to register with the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) and to report all administered immunizations, including state and privately funded, flu and all other immunizations. Registering your site will be helpful for allocation and tracking purposes.

Please contact us if you have any questions at, 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.*

