

# UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

We at Mass-ALA has been simultaneously advocating for state funding for testing and no mandates for testing. After the surveillance testing recommendation was released in July, we have been informing state policy makers that funding for testing is needed, and requesting assistance for ALRs. We are pleased that this announcement below includes the first funding assistance for testing since the National Guard testing program ended in June. We will continue to advocate for funding for testing and to oppose mandates of testing. Mass-ALA provided feedback on the development of the reimbursement policy, and successfully advocated that there not be a 48 hour time frame in which the staff testing had to be completed, to qualify for reimbursement.

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs has issued a Guidance to ALRs, announcing reimbursement for the costs associated with COVID-19 testing of staff ***if a new staff case is detected*** in the ALR community. There are certain limitations and requirements which must be met in order to qualify for the reimbursement, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Reimbursement will cover testing performed for the period of October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
- Reimbursement will be for PCR testing (Polymerase Chain Reaction,) which has a 95 percent sensitivity and greater than 90 percent specificity
- ALRs may be reimbursed for a maximum of 2 tests per staff member per 30-day period

Additional recommendations, restrictions and requirements, as well as details about the process by which ALRs are to request reimbursement and the documents required to do so, are outlined in the EOEA Guidance below.

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**Memorandum**

**To:** Assisted Living Residences Executive Directors

**From:** Secretary Elizabeth C. Chen

**SUBJECT:** Reimbursement to Assisted Living Residences for Certain Types of COVID-19 Testing

**Date:** October 5, 2020

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) is issuing this Guidance to Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) regarding reimbursement for the costs associated with polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for COVID-19 for the period October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

EOEA is recommending that ALRs follow the Long Term Care Surveillance Testing guidance issued by the Department of Public Health on [October 5, 2020](#). If a new staff case is detected in the ALR community, EOEA will reimburse the testing of all staff at the ALR for a maximum of 2 tests per staff member per 30-day period.

In order to receive the COVID-19 testing reimbursement described in this Guidance, an ALR must: (1) have arranged for and paid directly for testing of its staff; (2) maintain documentation of such testing and payment; (3) submit documentation consistent with the requirements outlined in this guidance, and report such testing in accordance with the procedures outlined below.

For the purposes of this Guidance, the term “staff” includes employees, consultants, contractors, volunteers, and caregivers who provide care and services to residents on behalf of the ALR. For the purpose of testing “staff,” ALRs should prioritize those individuals who are in the ALRs at least weekly and have direct contact with residents or staff.

**[Click Here for the Memorandum on Reimbursement to Assisted Living Residences for Certain Types of COVID-19 Testing](#)**

*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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