



MassHealth
Adult Foster Care Bulletin 12
October 2017

TO: Adult Foster Care Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: Adult Foster Care Program: Program Flexibility on changes in Member Living Situations Resulting from 2017 Hurricane Season

Overview

This 2017 hurricane season, several hurricanes, including Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, have caused significant damage and loss, and many people have had to evacuate their homes in Puerto Rico, Texas, and Florida. Some of those affected have sought lodging in the homes of family and friends in Massachusetts. Some of these homes may have MassHealth members receiving services under the MassHealth Adult Foster Care (AFC) Program.

Program Flexibility and Provider Responsibilities

The influx of individuals into Massachusetts from hurricane-affected areas may lead to changes in the living situations of members receiving AFC services. This may affect the status of the member's home as an AFC Qualified Setting. For example, it is possible that a family housing individuals evacuated from a hurricane affected area may conflict with the AFC Qualified Setting requirement under 130 CMR 408.435(B)(3) that the member receiving AFC services has his or her own bedroom and shares it with no more than one other adult.

If there is a change in a member's living situation due to the housing of individuals displaced by a hurricane from the 2017 hurricane season that impacts the status of the member's home as an AFC Qualified Setting, the member's AFC caregiver should contact his or her AFC Provider and describe the situation. The AFC Provider must then contact MassHealth and provide this information to MassHealth. MassHealth will work with the AFC Provider to determine appropriate application of the AFC Program requirements for AFC Qualified Settings in the most flexible manner possible, while ensuring that the provision of AFC services continues to be safe and appropriate for the member.

Please note that while MassHealth seeks to provide flexibility regarding the application of AFC Qualified Setting requirements during this hurricane season, MassHealth will approve flexibility for providers, as it determines appropriate, for a six-month period and will review at that time to determine if any further extension of flexibility is required. This bulletin does not amend AFC program regulations, and AFC Providers must comply with the regulations at 130 CMR 408.000, as well as other applicable laws and regulations, to ensure member safety and appropriate provision of AFC services.

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Contact and Questions

To alert MassHealth to a change in a living situation that may affect the status of a member's home as an AFC Qualified Setting, or to other concerns regarding provision of AFC services that may be affected by hurricane displacement, please contact:

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Please direct general provider questions to the MassHealth Long-Term Services and Supports Third Party Administrator at:

Contact Information for MassHealth LTSS Provider Service Center

Phone	Toll-free 1-844-368-5184
Email	support@masshealthltss.com
Portal	www.MassHealthLTSS.com
Mail	MassHealth LTSS PO Box 159108 Boston, MA 02215
Fax	1-888-832-3006
LTSS Provider Portal	Trainings, general information, and future enhancements will be available at www.MassHealthLTSS.com .