

# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Massachusetts Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC-MAP) to conduct mock evacuation exercise with healthcare facilities**

(June 2018, Waltham, MA) - The Massachusetts Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (MassMAP – [www.massmap.org](http://www.massmap.org)) will be conducting mock facility evacuation scenarios in long term care facilities (nursing homes, assisted living communities and rest homes) the weeks of **June 11 & June 18, 2018**. Although rare, the evacuation of a healthcare facility is a complex event requiring significant coordination with the community and region. The focus of these exercises is to evaluate the interaction of the LTC-MAP members in each region in preparation for internal events (fire, power failures) and external events (hurricanes, ice storms, tornadoes, etc.). The focus will be on communications, tracking of evacuated residents, and handling a large influx of residents at receiving facilities.

The exercises include operations coordinated out of “Disaster Struck Facilities”, where mock residents will be staged awaiting transportation to “Resident Accepting Facilities” within MassMAP. There will also be MassMAP Responders (which are volunteers comprised of nursing home, assisted living and rest home Administrators, Directors of Nursing, Directors of Maintenance, and many more) set up at regional Long Term Care Coordinating Centers across the Commonwealth to ensure accountability for all facilities. Volunteers will play the role of mock residents being evacuated between various facilities.

The exercises are a joint effort by MassMAP members, RPA a JENSEN HUGHES Company, Massachusetts Senior Care Association, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, local fire departments, EMS and emergency management officials.

**About MassMAP:** In multiple disasters in New England in the last six years (June 2011 Tornado in Springfield, MA, Tropical Storm Irene, Storm Alfred (“Halloween Storm”), Superstorm Sandy, and blizzards in 2013, 2015 and 2017), this plan was used to coordinate and manage more than 600 healthcare facilities in Massachusetts. This was an integrated effort between the long-term care associations, state and local health departments, state and local emergency management, long-term care providers, and RPA, a JENSEN HUGHES Company. These disasters pointed to the need for local, regional, statewide and now “interstate” planning to support nursing homes, assisted living residences and rest homes in a disaster. The plan is administered by Massachusetts Senior Care Association and the plan was designed by RPA, a JENSEN HUGHES Company [www.phillipsllc.com](http://www.phillipsllc.com).

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