



## PACE Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

October 15, 2021

**LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls.** How do we prepare for the unexpected public health crisis? What can we learn from this one? AND, is natural immunity to COVID as good as a vaccine, or at least good enough? Join us on the Call on **Monday, October 18 at 3:30** as we talk with nationally featured pandemic expert, Dr. Saskia Popescu of George Mason University about lessons from COVID that can inform how we plan for future public health shocks. On **Wednesday, October 20 at 3:30**, Dr. **Jeffrey Townsend** of Yale University will talk about a study he led that was published in the Lancet, discussing immunity after COVID-19 recovery, the chances for reinfection, and the need for boosters. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#).

**FDA News – Moderna and a Commissioner.** Two important updates from FDA today. First, the agency's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee voted unanimously (19-0) to endorse Moderna booster shots for older adults and younger people at high risk because of their underlying health, occupations, or other factors, despite some concerns about the depth of evidence, acknowledging the urgency of the pandemic requires prompt action. Today's vote sets up the FDA to make a formal regulatory call on Moderna's request to amend its EUA to allow for booster shots for certain people. If and when that happens, the action moves to CDC to determine how to administer and implement. The FDA asked the VRBPAC to discuss the need for mRNA boosters for all adults, but committee members said most younger adults are well protected by the current vaccines against severe disease.

**Vaccinating Homebound Older Adults.** The Trust for America's Health (TFAH) offers one-on-one office hours on Wednesday, October 20, from 4:00 – 4:30 PM ET on developing and executing plans to get vaccinations to older adults who are homebound. Additional sessions are set for November 3 and 17. You can register for the office hours [here](#).

**Vaccine rules Likely Coming Out Soon.** The CMS "Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination" Interim Final Rule was sent to OMB for final review on October 8. The OSHA Final Rule "COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard Rulemaking" was sent to OMB yesterday, October 12. OMB determines its own review timeline, but the fact that the rules have cleared their respective departments, HHS and Department of Labor, means we are likely to see them published soon.

**PHI Study Finds Few COVID-Displaced Workers Re-Employed in Direct Care.** PHI and the Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care at the University of California, San Francisco released a new report on direct care workers, *Workforce Displacement and Re-Employment During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Implications for Direct Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention*. The report examines workforce displacement and re-entry during the COVID-19 pandemic among direct care workers and workers from similar entry-level occupations, such as food preparation and serving, office and administrative support, and others. The study's purpose was to understand whether and how new

workers were recruited into direct care jobs during this crisis, which has implications for the long-term care field. The findings from this analysis determined there were few COVID-displaced workers re-employed in direct care. Read the full report [here](#). You can also read a LeadingAge article [here](#).

#### **From HHS:**

**FDA Safety Communication:** On Tuesday, October 5, the FDA [issued a safety communication to alert test users, caregivers, health care personnel and the public](#) of the potential for false positive results with certain lots of the Ellume COVID-19 Home Test due to a recently identified manufacturing issue. A “false positive” is a test result that says a person has the virus when they do not actually have it. Negative test results do not appear to be affected by the manufacturing issue. The FDA is not aware of any confirmed serious injuries or deaths related to the false positive results with the affected Ellume COVID-19 Home Tests at this time. The FDA is working with Ellume to assess Ellume’s additional manufacturing checks and other corrective steps to address the reason for the manufacturing issue and help ensure that the issue is resolved.

**COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People:** CDC [updated their information on COVID-19 vaccines](#) for moderately to severely immunocompromised people. CDC added answers to two additional questions in the “Frequently Asked Questions” section, surrounding the difference between an additional dose and a booster shot and whether an immunocompromised person who receive an additional dose and a booster shot.

**Federal Legislation Tracker.** Want to know the status of a Congressional bill related to aging services? Wondering if LeadingAge has taken a position. Please check our new and improved LeadingAge [federal legislation tracker](#). This tool includes bills that LeadingAge National is advocating on and following, our position, letters of support, and links to summaries that we have produced. We welcome your feedback. Please let Eram ([eabbasi@leadingage.org](mailto:eabbasi@leadingage.org)) know if you have any questions.

**Clorox Presents: Grants for Flu Vaccine Clinics.** Flu season is coming, and LeadingAge is partnering with Clorox to help members from across the continuum hold vaccine clinics. Grants can be used for clinics in your buildings, on your campus. or anywhere throughout your communities. Applications are due Nov. 1 and we’ll announce the member organizations receiving support shortly after. [Apply now](#) for a chance to receive funding, as well as Clorox products, to support your flu vaccine clinics this year.

**Reduce Hospitalizations with Updated CAST Telehealth Tool.** LeadingAge CAST has updated the [Telehealth and RPM Selection Tool](#), which can help you choose the best telehealth and remote patient monitoring (RPM) technologies for your organization. The tool now includes updated information for 15 products in its [selection matrix](#) and [online selection tool](#).

**LeadingAge Member Stories: Putting Out a Red Carpet to Recruit New Employees.** [Our latest member story](#) describes how one multi-site member has adapted resident marketing principles to its staff hiring process—focusing on what potential employees need and want out of a job. LeadingAge also wants to hear your stories of practical workforce innovations; the [LeadingAge Story Collector](#), powered by Greystone, makes it easy. Submissions don’t have to be perfect; LeadingAge staff will contact you to gather more details!