



PACE Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

March 18, 2022

Coronavirus Update Calls Next Week – all calls are at 3:30 PM ET. A unique, compelling, and solution-oriented look at the “sans-demic” – the shortage of workers to support the aging population. And an epidemiologist’s view on the next phase of the pandemic - what should aging services providers be watching and doing?

On Monday, March 21, we’ll talk with Ron Hetrick about his report: *Demographic Drought: How the Approaching Sansdemic Will Transform the Labor Market for the Rest of Our Lives.* He’ll discuss recent demographic trends affecting the workforce and how this shifting labor environment affects aging services providers. What was the impact of the pandemic on labor trends? More important, as we move into a new phase of COVID, how can provider communities address challenges these trends create?

Next Wednesday, March 23, we will welcome back “your local epidemiologist” Dr. Katelyn Jetelina to talk about the risks that still exists around COVID-19 even as we open up and begin the endemic stage of the pandemic. She will help us decipher the current trends surrounding transmission and risk and describe how LeadingAge members can communicate with residents and staff about the ongoing risks of COVID-19 and how we can keep each other safe. If you haven’t registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#). You can also find previous call recordings [here](#).

Register for The White House’s New Covid-19 National Preparedness Plan - Wednesday, March 23 at 1:00 PM ET. As the country enters a new phase of the national COVID-19 response, learn about the [White House’s new National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#). The plan lays out the Administration’s roadmap to fight COVID-19, including by preparing for new variants, preventing economic and educational shutdowns, continuing to vaccinate, and protecting against and treating COVID-19. According to the Administration’s announcement, the March 23 webinar will cover the following topics:

- The launch of a new nationwide Test-to-Treat Initiative at “one-stop” locations with free tests and free treatment pills.
- Leveraging the administration’s COVID-19 Surge Response Playbook.
- Updated guidance for employers to ensure safer workplaces.
- Saving lives by solving the oxygen crisis and making emergency supplies widely available.
- And more.

New Provider Resources. LeadingAge members serve older people across the continuum of care, and we’ve cultivated resources, insights, and updates for all provider types. From updates on the latest funding and regulations to sharing best practices to analyzing policy, insights for specific provider types are collected on newly updated provider landing pages at [leadingage.org](#):

- [Adult Day, PACE, and HCBS](#)
- [Affordable Housing](#)
- [Assisted Living](#)
- [Home Health](#)
- [Hospice](#)
- [Life Plan Communities](#)
- [Nursing Homes](#)

Vaccine Tools & Resources. LeadingAge experts continue to provide helpful information, answers to LeadingAge member questions, and the latest insights about vaccines and mandates. Check out our [Vaccine Tools & Resources page](#) for the latest—including our new “Care Fully” creative campaign designed to reach Black and Hispanic direct care workers, which leverages the strategic groundwork laid by the Ad Council/COVID Collaborative’s “It’s Up to You” campaign:

- [LeadingAge Hispanic Care Professionals Toolkit](#)
- [LeadingAge Black Care Professionals Toolkit](#)

Help for older adults with medical expense debt. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau released a data spotlight – [Medical Debt Among Older Adults Before the Pandemic](#). More than 4 million older adults, nearly one in ten, have a past due medical bill. The data spotlight provides information about these individuals. Medical debt is more common among older people of color, those with incomes near the poverty line, those uninsured or underinsured, the unmarried, and those who do not own a home. The document provides links for consumers to find help.

CDC’s Project Firstline New Resources: CDC’s Project Firstline launched a new toolkit entitled Risk Recognition and Infection Control in Healthcare. As with other Project Firstline resources, the new toolkit is aimed at increasing infection control knowledge and understanding among front line staff. The toolkit includes resources for 6 learning sessions: videos, slide decks, participation booklets, and a facilitator guide. There are also session feedback forms, self-assessments, posters, infographics, 2 interactive activities, and social media templates that can be used to promote the training among staff. Resources are aimed at all frontline staff, not just those providing clinical care, and can be used with different training formats including annual in-servicing, stand-up meetings, and on-the-spot training. Check out the toolkit and resources [here](#).

White House outlines costs of inaction on new COVID funding. The White House has reiterated its call for Congress to approve new COVID-19 relief funding. “We need Congress to provide the \$22.5 billion in emergency immediate funding,” the White House said today. The funding is needed for several efforts. First, to ensure there are adequate resources for vaccines, to accelerate research and development of next-generation vaccines that provide broader and more durable protection, and to purchase enough booster shots for all Americans if an additional shot is needed (also today, Pfizer/BioNTech said it will ask FDA approval for a second booster shot for people 65 and older).

Second, for more monoclonal antibody treatments. “We had planned to purchase additional monoclonals as soon as next week. Without additional funding, we are cancelling those plans. And as we will make clear to governors later this morning, we also need to cut the number of monoclonal antibody treatments we send to states by 30 percent starting next week,” the White House said today.

Third, for 1.7 million doses of preventative treatments for immunocompromised Americans : We have purchased 1.7 million doses of AstraZeneca’s Evusheld — all that they could produce to date. “Without

more funding, the federal government will now be forced to scale back on that purchase. So, we'll likely run out of treatments for our most vulnerable Americans by the end of the year, if not sooner," the White House said. Fourth, funding for the uninsured fund to reimburse medical providers for caring for uninsured individuals. "HHS will begin to scale back this program starting next week and end it completely in early April," the White House said. Fifth, funding for global vaccination efforts. Read more about the White House's request [here](#).

LeadingAge Immigration Priorities Addressed in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The FY 2022 Omnibus Appropriations Act increases funds to address immigrant visa backlogs; and, includes language to address LeadingAge priorities regarding the expedited renewal processing timelines on healthcare workers employment authorizations, and adopting visa processing improvements.

The FY 2022 omnibus appropriations bill provides the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) with \$275 million to address the backlogs and delays with processing refugee, asylum and immigration benefit applications. The funding will help many foreign health care workers who have been waiting for permission to enter the U.S. through employment-based visa petitions. Additionally, the omnibus appropriations act's accompanying report addresses two concerns that LeadingAge and a coalition of long-term and post-acute care (LTPAC) providers have advocated to change. While report language does not have the force of law, we are pleased the language addressed some of what we asked for. The omnibus appropriations bill includes report language that request:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to review whether the Employment Authorization Applications Form can be more narrowly tailored to reduce paperwork and workloads, while still ensuring proper eligibility and security.
- Secretary of State, not later than 90 days after enactment of the bill, to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, regarding lessons learned from the pandemic -- including the adoption of remote services, the feasibility of increased interview waivers and remote visa interviews, and any other process improvements that would enhance consular services domestically and overseas.

COVID-19 Elevates Broadband Internet Access to a Right. Last June, LeadingAge CAST's Majd Alwan [wrote about his predictions](#) on how COVID-19 and technology would reshape our future. Today, we know that the digital divide is one of the most important equity gaps to address as our society grows more reliant on digital technology and the internet. [Read the latest insights from Majd](#) on why broadband internet should be treated as a right for all and how LeadingAge members can be part of the solution.

Register for Collaborative Care Tech Summit. Registration is now open for the virtual [Collaborative Care Tech Summit](#) taking place June 7-8, 2022. This year's theme, "Connecting and Strengthening Workforce," will offer solutions to challenges LeadingAge members and other care providers are experiencing. [Learn more about the summit](#) and [register today](#) for invaluable insights on solving these workforce challenges.

New Webinar on the Hub. [Creating a Trauma-Informed Culture to Support Wellbeing.](#)

Join LeadingAge and Jill Schumann on *Monday, April 11 from 2:00 - 3:30 PM ET* to delve into the details of how a trauma-informed care framework can be used to assess, guide, and create safety and support in your organization.

- Review the key principles of trauma-informed care and delve into the intersections of the COVID-19 pandemic and trauma-informed care.

- Explore the workplace practices and education needed to understand, recognize, and respond to the effects of trauma on older adults and their family members.
- Hear about tools and resources available to help organizations across aging services settings provide a supportive environment that builds resilience.