



## Nursing Home Weekly Recap

July 9, 2021

**Coronavirus Update Calls For Next Week.** Join us on Monday, July 12, for an informative discussion on COVID-19 vaccination issues and barriers for frontline domestic workers. Judy Rebert from the National Domestic Workers Alliance will share their latest survey research and provide tips and examples to help educate and encourage staff to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The Delta variant of the coronavirus is taking hold across the country and the globe and LeadingAge members are wondering what this means for the months ahead. On Wednesday, July 14, Dr. Ghinwa Dumyati from the University of Rochester will talk with us about the new variant and what LeadingAge members can do to protect staff and residents as this new variant spreads. If you haven't registered for the calls, you can [join us here](#).

**CMS releases new COVID-19 Accelerated and Advance Payment (CAAP) Repayment and Recovery FAQ.** CMS released a new FAQ on the CAAP. It answers questions on terminology, repayment generally, recoupment, paying off the balance, specific questions for Periodic Interim Payment (PIP) providers, cost report impacts, and other topics. It can be found [here](#).

**Online Resource for Licensure of Health Professionals.** Created by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, this online site provides up-to-date information on emergency regulation and licensing in each state for psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists assistants, and social workers. Visit the Online Resource for Licensure of Health Professionals [here](#).

**State by State Face Mask Mandates – 9 states still have them in place.** The latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) allows people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to forgo masks in most public settings, indoors and out. Several States have modified their mask mandates to align with the federal guidelines while others have relaxed rules in most settings. Nine state governments require people to wear face coverings in most indoor public settings to curb the spread of COVID-19. The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico also have mask orders in place. To date, 30 states that had mask orders covering the general public have mostly lifted them. Eleven states did not impose mask mandates at any point during the pandemic. [Here's where each state](#) stands on the use of face masks, as of July 8, 2021.

**NHSN Changes and webinar:** Just a reminder that CDC has scheduled to make several changes to the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 reporting module beginning tomorrow evening. Changes include removing the ventilator capacity pathway, updating therapeutics and point of care testing, adding pop-up alerts in a few pathways, and changing the layout of certain data elements. The overall goal is a streamlined, more user-friendly process. CDC will host 2 webinars to review these changes on July 8 and July 12. Register for the webinar [here](#).

**FDA revokes certain respirator-related EUAs:** FDA issued an update on June 30 to announce revocation of certain emergency use authorizations (EUAs) related to the use of respirators in healthcare settings. These revocations mean that healthcare settings should be operating at conventional capacity strategies for respirator use. As of June 30, reprocessing/reuse or extended use of single-use respirators is no

longer authorized. As of July 6, non-NIOSH approved respirators are no longer authorized. More information on these updates can be found [here](#).

**LeadingAge Letter to HHS Life Safety Engineer.** This week, LeadingAge sent a letter to James Merrill, Life Safety Engineer at Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), to request movement on the FSES and Life Safety Codes. Because we know there are many members that are going to run out of the time limited waiver this Fall, the letter asks CMS for immediate action. Please stay tuned for next steps and a response from CMS. Read the letter [here](#).

**Appropriations Heats Up.** The House Appropriations Committee will mark up its fiscal year 2021 Transportation-HUD (THUD) appropriations bill on July 12 and in full committee on July 16. Any aging services stakeholders with U.S. Representatives on the THUD subcommittee or on the full committee are encouraged to contact them and urge support for LeadingAge's [policy priorities for FY22 HUD funding](#). You can find the members of the THUD subcommittee [here](#) and full committee members [here](#).

**Dr. Meena Seshamani to lead CMS Medicare Office.** On July 6, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [announced](#) Dr. Meena Seshamani, M.D., Ph.D., as Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicare. Dr. Seshamani will oversee policymaking aimed at the more than 61 million seniors and people with disabilities covered by the Medicare program, effective July 6. Dr. Seshamani most recently served as Vice President of Clinical Care Transformation at MedStar Health, where she designed and implemented population health and value-based care initiatives. She served on the senior leadership of the hospital and had responsibility for overseeing the outpatient care site health system, which included geriatrics, palliative care, and community health. She also served on the leadership of the Biden-Harris Transition HHS Agency Review Team. Prior to MedStar Health, she was Director of the Office of Health Reform at HHS, during the Obama administration, and led implementation of the Affordable Care Act across the Department, including coverage policy, delivery system reform, and public health.

**LeadingAge Letter to OSHA Requesting Delay on ETS Compliance.** On July 2, LeadingAge sent a letter to OSHA requesting a six-month delay on the compliance dates of the Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) for healthcare settings. The letter also requests an additional 30 days in which to file comments on the ETS. Employers must comply with most provisions by July 6th, and with provisions involving physical barriers, ventilation, and training by July 21st. LeadingAge has a [virtual update on the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard](#) for healthcare settings live on its Learning Hub. The virtual update is free for LeadingAge members. OSHA has created many tools on its [resources page](#) to assist employers in compliance. Read the letter [here](#).

**NEW: Member Tools and Public Opinion Poll on U.S. Attitudes About Investing in Aging Services for Older Adults.** As Congress considers bigger investments in affordable housing, broadband internet, and home care for older adults, LeadingAge commissioned a national survey to help ensure these provisions advance during the legislative process. The survey finds overwhelming backing for government investments to support older adults, across political party affiliations and geographic areas.

Now is the time to raise our voices to ensure that these aging services receive much-needed increased

investment. LeadingAge has prepared a suite of tools—including media outreach templates and social graphics—for your use in informing local media, elected officials, coalition partners, and community members about this timely opportunity to expand support for older adults. [View more information here.](#)

**July 27 Webinar: Complying with New Provider Relief Fund Reporting Requirements**

Beginning July 1 you have 90 days to report on Provider Relief Funds if you received them this past year. [Join this 90-minute webinar](#) to gain expert guidance as the September 30 reporting deadline approaches. Participants will learn what they should be paying attention to, share how HHS reporting guidelines will impact lost revenue calculations, and discuss how this reporting will intersect with other assistance they may have received during the pandemic.

**New Insights and Tools From LeadingAge.** LeadingAge staff experts are developing essential advocacy, guidance, and tools, and curating the most relevant resources for aging services providers, including:

- [Nursing Home Weekly Recap](#)
- [Life Plan Community Weekly Recap](#)
- [Home Health and Hospice Weekly Recap](#)
- [PACE Weekly Recap](#)
- [Senior Housing Weekly Recap](#)
- [Drive for 75: Week 18 Resources](#)
- [2021 Aging Related State Legislation](#)
- [LeadingAge Letter to OSHA](#)
- [GAO Urges More Comprehensive REAC Changes](#)
- [Tenant Empowerment Act Introduced](#)

A complete [timeline of insights and tools is available here](#), so you'll never miss an update.