



## Senior Housing Weekly

October 4, 2021

**HUD Staff to Join Monday Housing Advisory Group Call on COVID-19 Supplemental Payments.** Join Linda and Juliana on **Monday, October 4, at 12:30 PM ET** for our weekly Housing Advisory Group call for affordable senior housing providers. We'll be joined by HUD staff who will review HUD's fourth round of CSPs and provide answers to some of LeadingAge questions. HUD is also hosting a **broader stakeholder call on October 5 at 11:30am ET**; more info [here](#). To join the Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays, please email Linda ([LCouch@LeadingAge.org](mailto:LCouch@LeadingAge.org)) or Juliana ([JBilowich@LeadingAge.org](mailto:JBilowich@LeadingAge.org)).

**LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls:** On **Monday, October 4 at 3:30**, **Brian Kane**, Senior Director of Ethics at the Catholic Health Association of the USA will join the call to talk about the thorny and multi-faceted topic of religious exemptions. In particular he will address questions and concerns that have been raised about the use of fetal cells in relation to COVID vaccines currently available. Brian will talk about [this Statement from Pro-Life Catholic Scholars on the Moral Acceptability of Receiving COVID-19 Vaccines](#), from the Ethics and Public Policy Center. He'll answer caller questions and discuss how Catholic health and aging services provider organizations are dealing with religious exemptions. If you haven't registered for LeadingAge Update Calls, [you can do so here](#).

**HUD COVID-19 Supplemental Payment Updates.** Please keep sending your CSP questions for HUD. More info on CSPs is available [here](#). LeadingAge is also happy to have one-on-one conversations with you and your property staff to discuss CSPs in more depth.

- **Answers to LeadingAge Member Questions:** LeadingAge is expecting answers from HUD to our CSP questions by Friday, October 1.
- **FAQ Document:** HUD is also creating a general FAQ document (based in part on our questions).
- **HUD CSP Calls:** HUD is offering two CSP calls next week: One dedicated call for LeadingAge members on October 4 at 12:30pm ET, and one broader stakeholder call on October 5 at 11:30am ET; more info about the calls is available [here](#).

**Continuing Resolution Until December 3.** The Senate and House passed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep federal programs funded absent enactment of annual appropriations bills. The CR will keep federal programs funded at fiscal year 2021 levels until December 3, just more than two months into fiscal year 2022. Congress has not enacted any of its 12 annual appropriations bills. LeadingAge has been assured by HUD officials that FY21 funding levels will be sufficient for HUD-assisted housing programs to continue through December 3. The President is expected to sign the CR prior to midnight, September 30, before the October 1 start of the federal fiscal year to avert a federal government shutdown.

**HUD Extends NSPIRE Demonstration Program Until 2023.** On September 28, HUD announced the continuation of the demonstration to assess HUD's National Standard's for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE) through April 30, 2023. The demonstration began in August, 2019; once the demonstration period ends, HUD's NSPIRE effort will replace the agency's current approach to physical

inspections in HUD-assisted properties. The extension comes after LeadingAge requested that HUD adjust its original implementation timeline of 2021 due to the pandemic. LeadingAge argued that an extension would allow for HUD to make up lost time "in the field" testing its new standards and scoring, and would also allow properties time to adjust to a new physical inspection protocol after more than a year navigating a public health emergency. More information about HUD's planned REAC overhaul is available [here](#). Contact Juliana ([jbilowich@leadingage.org](mailto:jbilowich@leadingage.org)) for more information or to join LeadingAge's HUD Oversight Workgroup, which meets monthly to discuss MORs, physical inspections, and other HUD portfolio oversight mechanisms.

**Vaccine Mandates: Q & A on Upcoming OSHA ETS For Businesses with 100 or more Employees.** There are a lot of questions about the upcoming OSHA emergency temporary standard (ETS) addressing vaccine mandates or weekly testing requirements that will apply to all employers with 100 or more employees. The Health Action Alliance hosted a town hall last week with three experts and provided some [answers to top questions](#) they received on the upcoming OSHA ETS. We are also awaiting the CMS vaccine mandate for providers that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid program and will review how these two rules will apply to LeadingAge members. We anticipate both rules will be released sometime in October.

**CDC Recommendations for Booster Shots:** As of Friday, September 24, CDC recommends and the FDA has approved a booster shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as follows:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- People aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **should** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- People aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Read the CDC statement [here](#). Additionally, check out [this FAQ document](#) provided by the CDC. We note that at this time, only the Pfizer vaccine has received FDA approval for a booster dose. CDC continues not to recommend mixing of COVID-19 vaccines, as discussed in [this guidance](#). This means that only individuals who completed an initial vaccine series with Pfizer should consider a booster if eligible as outlined above. Individuals who completed an initial vaccine series with Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, or another vaccine are not recommended to receive a booster dose at this time. Members who are organizing vaccine clinics should take caution to identify primary vaccine series for residents and staff when considering additional doses for immunocompromised individuals or booster doses for those recommended as above.

**Connecting to Pharmacies for Booster Shots.** LeadingAge is working with GeriMed, an association of 1300 independent pharmacies in every state except New Hampshire and Delaware, to connect pharmacies to settings in need of on-site booster shot clinics. We are asking affordable senior housing providers to fill out a form to express interest in being partnered with a local pharmacy. Filling out this form does not guarantee you'll be matched with a pharmacy for an onsite clinic and nor does it mean you must partner with any pharmacy you are matched with. This effort is an attempt to introduce aging services providers to pharmacies. Here is the form: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6523530/Booster-Clinics-Pharmacy-Partnerships>

**Immunization Program Manager Contacts** – If LeadingAge members are having trouble arranging COVID-19 vaccinations for their residents and staff, they can contact their state or local health department's immunization program. The appropriate contact for each immunization program can be found at this link [AIM-LTC Contact Info v.1.xlsx \(ymaws.com\)](#) More information can be found here as well: [Immunization Program Manager Contacts - Association of Immunization Managers \(AIM\)](#)

**New Vaccine Access Resources from CDC.** On September 21, CDC shared new vaccine access resources for variety of long-term care settings, including nursing homes, assisted living, residential care communities, group homes, and senior housing. As the FDA and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices appear poised to recommend booster shots for people 65+ and people at high risk of becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus, aging services providers are preparing for on-site clinics and other strategies to connect older adults and eligible staff to booster shots. The CDC's updated website for [COVID-19 Vaccine Access in Long-term Care Settings](#) provides [information for long-term care administrators and managers](#), as well as information on [how jurisdictions can ensure COVID-19 vaccine access for staff and residents in long-term care settings](#). CDC's new resources include strategies for on-site vaccination clinics and vaccinations in the broader community. For on-site clinics, providers are urged to contact their long-term care pharmacy, local retail pharmacy, or other vaccine provider to arrange for an on-site vaccination clinic. Providers may also request vaccination support from a pharmacy partner enrolled in the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) and may find the CDC's piece on [Connecting Long-Term Care Settings with Federal Pharmacy Partners](#) very useful. Providers having difficulty arranging COVID-19 vaccination for residents and staff should contact their state or local health department's immunization program for assistance. Finally, if the state or jurisdictional immunization program is unable to connect your LTC setting with a vaccine provider, CDC is available as a safety net support and can be contacted through CDC INFO at 800-232-4636 for additional support. Aging services providers will also find the [CDC's booster shot page](#), which will be updated as the FDA and ACIP authorize booster doses, full of useful information.

**HUD Posts Second Interim Report on IWISH.** On September 28, HUD posted the second interim report to evaluate the Integrated Wellness in Supportive Housing (IWISH) model, which leverages coordinated service delivery as a means to better address interdependent health and supportive services needs among older residents in HUD-assisted properties. The three-year demonstration is being implemented in 40 HUD-assisted multifamily properties in seven states which predominantly or exclusively serve households headed by people aged 62 and over, including many by LeadingAge members. The second report in a three-part series, [Supporting Aging in Place through IWISH: Second Interim Report from the Evaluation of the Supportive Services Demonstration](#) documents implementation over the entire demonstration period (October 2017–September 2020), including fidelity to the IWISH model and the

experiences of staff, property owners, and residents. The third and final report, expected in late 2022, will show the potential impacts of the demonstration on participants' housing stability and healthcare utilization. A LeadingAge analysis of the second interim report is forthcoming.

**Resource for Providers Participating in the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program, Long-term Care Residents & Their Families:** In response to [inquiries about medical consent surrounding the administration of a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) to residents in long-term care (LTC) settings at least six months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released responses to frequently asked questions (FAQs).

**Studies Show More COVID-19 Cases in Areas Without School Masking Policies:** On Friday, CDC released three studies in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* that [highlight the importance of using layered prevention strategies including universal masking to stop the spread and minimize disruptions to school operations for safe in-person education](#). These studies found that school districts without a universal masking policy in place were more likely to have COVID-19 outbreaks. Nationwide, counties without masking requirements saw the number of pediatric COVID-19 cases increase nearly twice as quickly during this same period.

**Science Update:** On Friday, CDC [released their weekly COVID-19 Science Update](#). This week's update includes research on the duration of protection of COVID-19 vaccines against clinical disease, equity and uneven distribution of federal COVID-19 relief funds to US hospitals, and more.