

LPC Weekly Report

Friday, August 13 2021



Highlights for LPCs:

Announcing Our Speakers: LPC Advisory Group

We have a great line up of speakers for the LPC Advisory Group in August and September! Check them out, below, and reserve your spot today:

- **Monday, August 30 at 2:00 PM EST: Market Opportunities and Growth**

To discuss this evolving and ever-relevant topic, we have a dynamic panel of experts: Nicole Fallon, LeadingAge; Dan Hermann and Lisa McCracken, Ziegler; Rich Navarro and Brad Paulis, Continuing Care Actuaries; and Joann Handy, strategic consultant.

- **Wednesday, September 29 at 2:00 PM EST: Middle Market**

Join Melissa Andrews, LeadingAge VA, Beth Mace, National Investment Center, and Colin Milner, International Council on Active Aging for thought-provoking conversation on the Middle Market.

To register for the calls and receive the Zoom link, email Dee (dpekruhn@leadingage.org).

1. **Provider Relief Fund Webinar Recording Now Available.** If you missed the LeadingAge “Complying with the New Provider Relief Fund Reporting Requirements” webinar on July 27, you can still access it [here](#). The recording is now available on the LeadingAge Learning Hub. It walks providers through step-by-step what they need to know, where the risks may be and includes 45-minutes of Q &A to help aging service providers understand what they need to report. The first report is due September 30.
2. **How Your Community Can Create a Culture of Belonging.** As we strive to increase diversity among elders and team members, how can we ensure those who join our communities and organizations feel a sense of belonging? It begins with honest conversations and a willingness to do better. Join us for a highly interactive virtual event on September 22, where we’ll explore ways provider organizations are creating inclusive cultures where everyone is welcomed, valued, and respected. [Learn more and register](#).

COVID-19 Related Updates:

1. **Understanding Variants:** Viruses constantly change through mutation, and [new variants of a virus are expected to occur](#). Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants persist. Multiple variants of COVID-19 have emerged in the United States. At this point, the original variant that caused the initial COVID-19 cases in January 2020 is no longer circulating as newer variants have increased. View CDC’s [video on what you need to know about variants](#). See specific information on [the Delta Variant](#).

2. **AARP Vaccination Dashboard.** AARP released its updated [Nursing Home COVID-19 Dashboard](#). The Dashboard uses publicly available NHSN data to provide snapshots every four weeks. Today's update shows cases of COVID-19 continue to rise among nursing home residents and staff, by 50% and 60% respectively in the middle of July compared to the week before.
3. **New CDC-Funded Pilot Program in Georgia Uses Public Art to Increase Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccination:** To help build confidence in and increase demand for COVID-19 vaccination, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is partnering with the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and several other organizations [on an innovative community initiative leveraging local artists as trusted vaccine messengers](#). The [COVID-19 Georgia Arts](#) pilot is a unique collaboration between CDC, the David J. Sencer CDC Museum, DPH, Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE) Georgia, and two local arts organizations – [Dashboard](#) and [Living Walls](#) – to increase vaccine uptake through public art.
4. **Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing Hospitalization:** CDC released an *MMWR* on the [effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine in preventing hospitalizations among adults aged ≥65 years](#). Clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for emergency use in the United States (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Janssen [Johnson & Johnson]) have shown high efficacy in preventing symptomatic (including moderate to severe) COVID-19. Among adults aged 65–74 years, effectiveness of full vaccination for preventing hospitalization was 96% for Pfizer-BioNTech, 96% for Moderna, and 84% for Janssen COVID-19 vaccines; among adults aged ≥75 years, effectiveness of full vaccination for preventing hospitalization was 91% for Pfizer-BioNTech, 96% for Moderna, and 85% for Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. Efforts to increase vaccination coverage are critical to reducing the risk for COVID-19–related hospitalization, particularly in older adults.
5. **Rapid Increase in Circulation of the Delta Variant:** CDC released an *MMWR* on the [rapid increase in circulation of the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 \(Delta\) Variant](#). The highly transmissible B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant of SARS-CoV-2 has become the predominant circulating U.S. strain. During April–June 2021, COVID-19 cases caused by the Delta variant increased rapidly in Mesa County, Colorado. Compared with that in other Colorado counties, incidence, intensive care unit admissions, COVID-19 case fatality ratios, and the proportion of cases in fully vaccinated persons were significantly higher in Mesa County. Crude vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection was estimated to be 78% for Mesa County and 89% for other Colorado counties. Vaccination is critical for preventing infection, serious illness, and death associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection (including the Delta variant). Multicomponent prevention strategies, such as masking in indoor settings irrespective of vaccination status as well as optimal surveillance testing and infection prevention and control, should be considered in areas of high incidence.
6. **Reduced Risk of Reinfection After COVID-19 Vaccination:** CDC released an *MMWR* on [the reduced risk of reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 after COVID-19 vaccination](#). Reinfection with human coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has been documented. Currently, limited evidence concerning the protection afforded by vaccination against reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 is available. Among Kentucky residents infected with SARS-CoV-2 in 2020, vaccination status of those reinfected during May–June 2021 was compared with that of residents who were not reinfected. In this case-control study, being unvaccinated was associated with 2.34 times the odds of reinfection compared with being fully vaccinated. To

reduce their likelihood for future infection, all eligible persons should be offered a COVID-19 vaccine, even those with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection. The CDC Newsroom [issued a media statement on the study](#).

7. **What's new with the Delta Variant (it changes daily) and what does the surge mean for aging services providers? Check out upcoming LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Calls to find out. All calls are at 3:30 PM ET.** On **Monday, August 16**, we will welcome **Dr. Megan Ranney**, an emergency room physician and researcher who will share her thoughts on what is happening on the ground with the surge in new cases. She also is the founder of Get Us PPE and will share her thoughts on resources to help providers obtain PPE. On **Wednesday, August 18**, we will welcome back **Dr. Ali Mokdad** from the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. He will provide the latest updates on the trending data on COVID and take your questions on what we can expect in the fall. If you haven't registered for the calls, [you can do so here](#).

Advocacy Alerts and Hill News:

1. **Continuing the infrastructure saga...**The Senate passed the Concurrent Budget Resolution (S. Res. 14) in a middle of the night on a party-line vote (50-49). As we have been reporting, this tees up development of a \$3.5T care infrastructure bill that is expected to pass under reconciliation, requiring only majority support in the Senate. Out of those trillions, LeadingAge is advocating for the full \$400B for HCBS, approximately \$55B for an FMAP increase for nursing homes, \$7.5B for low income senior housing, and \$1B for workforce development and support, along with expansion of Medicare to include dental, vision and hearing benefits, expanded access to affordable child care that will help support our workforce, among other provisions. The resolution directs House and Senate committees to develop legislation by September 15. The House is returning early from August "recess" to vote on the budget resolution and also begin work on concurrent legislation. We have developed a robust and substantial advocacy plan for the next month to make sure our voices are heard and the amounts needed for a strong LTSS system are not cut. Stay tuned, we will be calling on you to help!
2. **Making the Case for Aging Services Investments.** On August 9, LeadingAge sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and all Senate Democrats, urging them not to short-change older adults and the providers who serve them in the \$3.5 trillion package now officially under consideration on the Senate floor. The letter calls for the budget reconciliation instructions to accommodate investments for the nation's most pressing aging services needs, including \$400 billion for Home and Community Based Services to allow more older adults to get the help they need to grow older wherever they call home, including increasing pay for the staff who provide the help; \$7.5 billion to address the nation's shortage of affordable housing for older adults with very low incomes through HUD's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program; \$55 billion to increase Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes so they can pay wages that enable them to recruit and retain staff, especially front line workers; and a \$1 billion investment in the aging services workforce to implement strategies to strengthen recruitment, career, and training opportunities that our nation's direct care workers need to care for millions of older Americans and people with disabilities. "For millions of older adults who are skipping meals to make the rent, or who need help with essentials like getting in and out of bed, bathing and eating, or who require affordable, 24/7 care —every dollar makes a

difference,” said Katie Smith Sloan, president and CEO of LeadingAge, which represents more than 5,000 nonprofit aging services providers across the country in an August 10 statement on the Senate’s consideration of the historic package. “The upcoming reconciliation package must specifically provide for investments to address the nation’s most pressing aging services needs.” Read LeadingAge’s statement [here](#). Read LeadingAge’s letter [here](#).

3. **Elder Justice Reauthorization bill introduced.** As we hinted last week, The Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act of 2021 (S. /H.R.) was introduced on Friday by Sen. Wyden (D-OR), Chair, Senate Finance, and Sen. Casey (D-PA), chair, Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Rep. Neal (D-MA), chair, Ways & Means, and Rep. Bonamici (D-WA), Co-Chair of the House Elder Justice Caucus. LeadingAge worked with committee staff alone and as part of the steering committee of the Elder Justice Coalition. This bill contains 5 major sections

Important Announcements from LeadingAge:

1. **Education You Can Use at the 2021 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO**
Learning at the LeadingAge Annual Meeting is different from offerings available anywhere else. We don’t shy away from the tough topics and you can count on your LeadingAge community for openness and support through even the most difficult discussions. No matter what the subject matter of the sessions you choose, you’ll walk away with measurable, actionable and scalable ideas to apply when you get back home. [Make plans to join us in Atlanta October 24-27](#)