

LPC Weekly Report

Friday, August 27 2021



**Highlights for LPCs:**

**Join us on Monday!** The next LPC Advisory Group meeting, focused on market opportunities and growth, is on **Monday, August 30 2021, 2:00 PM Eastern**. 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. To register for the calls and receive the Zoom link, email Dee ([dpekruhn@leadingage.org](mailto:dpekruhn@leadingage.org)).

**Also on Monday: LPC CEO Barbara Thomas talks on the national Coronavirus Call.** We will welcome fellow LeadingAge member **Barbara Thomas, CEO of Kendal at Oberlin** who will talk about her recent experience with breakthrough COVID-19 cases and the lessons learned from the experience. And then, on **Wednesday, September 1, Dr. Monica Gandhi, a perennial favorite speaker on our update calls**, will outline her thinking and rationale about whether boosters are needed and provide candid advice on what is happening with COVID-19. If you haven't registered for the calls on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30pm ET, you can do so [here](#).

**Senior Housing Providers, Other Aging Services to Plan Booster Shot Clinics.** With the Delta variant surging in many parts of the country, booster doses of a COVID-19 vaccine may be needed to maintain strong viral protections. Subject to approval by the FDA and recommendation by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), COVID-19 boosters will potentially be available for eligible vaccinated individuals, including health care providers, residents of long-term care communities, and other older adults. Unlike with the initial rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, CDC will NOT be coordinating clinics for booster shots; affordable senior housing providers, home and community based services providers, and other aging services providers should work with pharmacies directly to start planning shot clinics or booster shot access in the broader community for residents and staff. More info [here](#).

**Pandemic Playbook Includes New Resources on Rethinking the Future.** An important update to the [LeadingAge Pandemic Playbook](#) is now in place. "[Reopen, Recover, Reimagine: Moving Forward Together](#)" is the newly renamed and expanded chapter 9, focused not only on the present of the pandemic but also the future of member organizations. The chapter includes new resources on rebuilding occupancy and returning to stability, along with how providers are rethinking fundamental assumptions about how to serve older adults. Read the Pandemic Playbook now at [playbook.leadingage.org](http://playbook.leadingage.org).

**COVID-19 Related Updates:**

**Town Hall Summary: Member Concerns about Vaccine Mandates.** Thursday, August 26 at 3:00 PM Eastern, LeadingAge hosted an all-member Town Hall to discuss the recent CMS vaccine mandate announcement, as well as LeadingAge's policy position and advocacy on the issue. A summary article of the event will be available [here](#).

**More Details: Additional Payments for Vaccinations in a Home Setting.** We reported that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) said it is providing additional payments to healthcare providers who administer doses to multiple residents at home, a move that is intended to incentive equitable vaccine access for older adults in smaller and rural group home settings. We now have an article summaries the details [here](#).

**State Vaccination Mandates Article Updated.** We have updated this article as of August 25, 2021; states added to the list of those who have vaccination mandates for healthcare workers include Colorado, District of Columbia, Nevada, New Mexico, and North Carolina. States added to the list of those with vaccination mandate bans are Georgia and Indiana. Check out the updated [article](#) and [spreadsheet](#) for more detail.

**Possibility of COVID-19 Illness After Vaccination.** Earlier this week, CDC [updated the page on the possibility of COVID-19 illness](#) after vaccination . COVID-19 vaccines protect people against severe illness, including disease caused by Delta and other variants circulating in the U.S. COVID-19 vaccines protect people from getting infected and severely ill, and significantly reduce the likelihood of hospitalization and death.

**This Week's Drive for 75.** For our sixtieth segment (can you believe it's been that many?), we featured a mash-up of articles on individual experiences with vaccine hesitancy, and pondered how convincing a vaccine hesitant person to get the vaccine can be like getting a cat out of a ceiling. Our sixty-first segment reviewed an article that called delta variant the "Goldilocks Virus" and explained how we ended up where we are with delta. You can read the full transcripts [here](#).

### ***Advocacy Alerts and Hill News:***

**Letter to the Administration on the CMS nursing home vaccine mandate announcement.** Katie Sloan sent a [letter](#) to Ambassador Susan Rice, Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, and CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, outlining LeadingAge member concerns, saying all Medicare and Medicaid provider staff should be mandated to be vaccinated in all settings, and pointing out that mandating vaccines only for nursing home providers will cause workforce shortages in LTC to grow even worse.

LeadingAge requests in the letter are:

- Level the field across all of health care to keep everyone protected. The vaccine mandate as a condition of employment should apply to all health care providers that participate in Medicare or Medicaid.
- Address workforce shortages. Vaccine mandates must be coupled with direct assistance to providers, enabling them to maintain staff to keep serving and caring for residents.
- Allocate Provider Relief Funds. The remaining PRF must get to long-term care providers as quickly as possible to help ensure they can continue to serve older adults.
- Step up vaccine education. Please increase vaccine acceptance education and resources in aging services settings.

### **Hill Update: House Approves Budget Resolution, Sets Deadline for Infrastructure**

**Vote.** Tuesday, the House advanced a budget resolution setting the stage for a \$3.5 trillion infrastructure and economic recovery package, including significant investments in aging services and affordable housing. After much internal wrangling, House Democrats united to pass

the budget resolution authorizing the “care infrastructure” legislation to proceed by reconciliation (so that only 51 votes are needed in the Senate), and to set up a vote on the floor Sept. 27 on the bipartisan infrastructure legislation passed by the Senate (bricks and roads and broadband). While the House and Senate are now technically in recess until Sept. 20, critical work is still happening at the committee level. Both House and Senate committees of jurisdiction (Senate Finance, House Ways & Means, Senate Banking, House Financial Services, etc.) now must develop the legislation that the budget committees in both houses will merge into one bill; target date in the resolution is September 15. We note that the 10 moderate Democrats that wanted the vote on the Senate-passed bill to move before reconciliation was completed have also raised questions about supporting the full \$3.5T authorized by the budget resolution as have some Democratic senators despite voting to proceed using that bottom line. What this means for us is that we must continue advocating for the HCBS, nursing home and HUD housing programs and dollars we want because everything is on the table. Our advocacy priorities are available [here](#).

**Provider Relief Fund Website updates and new resources:** The Provider Relief Fund website can now be found [here](#) on the HRSA website and has been redesigned. The FAQs are now searchable but there is no longer a single document that contains all of the FAQs. In addition, HRSA has added a new resource [guide](#) on Lost Revenues. Members should note that they should select their method of calculating lost revenues carefully as HRSA has clarified that the same method must be used for every reporting period. For more details on this topic and other questions LeadingAge posed to HRSA about PRF reporting, here is an [article](#) we published last week with new information from HRSA that is not in the current FAQs. Finally, providers can now [sign up](#) for a notification about future PRF payment opportunities. No word on if future payment opportunities are imminent but we can hope this is a sign of good things to come.

**Real Opportunity for Historic Federal Investment in Aging Services.** Congress is crafting the FY22 budget bill in a process called reconciliation. Under consideration are much-needed major investments for home and community-based services (HCBS) and affordable housing for older adults. We must raise our voices to ensure these allocations are included in the final bill. Please do two things this week: 1) speak out publicly, using the [tools and templates](#) LeadingAge created 2) ask others to raise their voices—share this [Action Alert](#). Members of Congress are in their home districts this week. Please let them hear your voice!

### ***Important Announcements from LeadingAge:***

**Important Safety Updates for LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO.** After a uniquely difficult time for our field, we are ready to welcome our community of aging services leaders back to LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO—and we want to do that as safely as possible. In order to best protect our attendees, exhibitors, and event staff, all participants will be required to present proof of full vaccination against COVID-19, through a HIPPA-compliant online process. We will be making accommodations for those with religious and medical exemptions. If you have already registered for your conference badge, you will be sent an email with specific instructions in the next two weeks on how to upload your vaccine verification. For more information and the latest updates, please [visit our dedicated webpage](#). We appreciate your continued support and assistance in helping us create a safe, comfortable environment for all. If you have questions, please reach out at [sales@leadingage.org](mailto:sales@leadingage.org). We can't wait to see you!

