

LPC Specific Content:

1. **Ziegler Q2 LPC Occupancy Review Shows Promising Trends.** Based on targeted data tracking by the National Investment Center, the Ziegler Q2 LPC Occupancy review showed that LPC occupancy marginally improved over Q1, that entry fee LPCs bounced back more strongly than rental, and not for profit more strongly than for profit LPCs. Independent Living and Assisted Living segments set within an LPC improved in occupancy (year over year) more so than stand-alone providers of those care segments; stand-alone nursing and memory support programs fared better than those set within an LPC year over year. Regionally, the Mid-Atlantic followed by the Northeast and Pacific regions had the strongest occupancy numbers, while the Southwest was the lowest performing region for occupancy this quarter. Read the full report [here](#).
2. **Save the Date: Next LPC Advisory Group Meeting.** The next session of the LPC Advisory Group will be held on Monday, August 30 at 2:00 PM Eastern. Guest speakers from Ziegler and Continuing Care Actuaries, along with LeadingAge experts, will discuss Market Opportunities and Growth for LPCs, with a special emphasis on Continuing Care at Home and Medicare Advantage. To register for the call and receive the Zoom link, email Dee at dpekruhn@leadingage.org

COVID-19 Related Updates:

1. **LeadingAge statement supporting COVID-19 Vaccine mandates.** Today, LeadingAge issued a [statement](#) strongly urging all residents and staff in long-term care to get vaccinated. LeadingAge specifically supports requiring vaccines for current and new staff in LTC and other health care settings. Here's a [press release](#) with Katie Sloan's statement. In addition, LeadingAge is part of a group of more than 50 health and aging services organizations that today issued a [joint statement](#) in support of vaccine mandates for all health and LTC workers. There was significant coverage in the media including this piece in the [Washington Post](#).
2. **Biden federal employee vaccine announcement.** Thursday afternoon President Biden directed all federal workers and **onsite** contractors to be vaccinated or otherwise submit to regular COVID testing. Onsite contractors are contractors who work in federal buildings and workplaces. Nongovernmental organizations that receive federal funds are **NOT** included in this directive.
3. **CDC Call with Health Care Providers on Delta Variant.** LeadingAge participated in an invitation only call for health and long-term care providers, convened in light of surging numbers of positive cases and the [new masking guidance](#) released today. "Much of the increase in spread of the Delta variant is driven by low vaccination rates, especially among health care providers," a CDC official said. Among the top points covered:
 - a. **The new guidance on masking is only guidance; it recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask indoors, reversing earlier guidance. State and local jurisdictions**

will need to make their own decisions about whether to take action and what action to take.

- i. No specific guidance from CDC around capacity of indoor spaces; that is up to the jurisdictions.
- ii. **Vaccines remain the most effective defense against transmission.**
- iii. **CDC “can’t issue mandates at this time,” but encourages providers and health systems to “move in that direction. We encourage consideration of mandates.”**

b. Transmission of Delta variant

- i. It is looking so far like viral loads with Delta are comparable for infected people who have been vaccinated or are unvaccinated. Potentially, they may be equally likely to transmit the Delta variant virus.

c. Breakthrough infections.

- i. Breakthrough infections are inevitable. Anything – like the Delta variant – that increases transmission is going to increase the number of breakthrough infections.
- ii. So far there is no evidence of reduced vaccine efficacy with Delta.
- iii. CDC seems especially concerned about breakthrough infections in nursing homes where they are most likely to cause severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths.
- iv. CDC is tracking breakthrough infections that result in hospitalizations and deaths, but for a variety of reasons not tracking the role of the Delta variant in all cases, especially not in asymptomatic infections.
- v. They are working on new messaging about breakthrough infections.

d. Should providers change what they are doing?

- i. None of the guidance has changed except masking.
- ii. CDC continues to recommend that exposed health care workers be tested and if positive, quarantine.
- iii. Today’s guidance does not address mask types.
- iv. In terms of further sanitation guidance – nothing new today. CDC reinforces and will reiterate that while environmental factors play a limited role in transmission, high touch surfaces should be cleaned often.

4. **Federal COVID Response Team Facebook Live Event on Variants.** The Federal COVID Response Team is offering a Facebook Live Event featuring experts from the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) on Thursday, August 5 at Noon ET. Here’s the link to participate: <https://www.facebook.com/CombatCOVIDgov>. In addition, the Team’s [CombatCOVID website](#) has a number of new resources, including testimonials that are in the public domain and may be used on your organization’s website. Dr. Reed Tuckson of the Black Coalition Against COVID-19 is featured in a [video](#) on the website on how clinicians can counsel their patients regarding vaccination and monoclonal antibody treatment.

5. **Drive for 75 This Week: Motivating the Unvaccinated.** This week’s segments looked at various new ways that unvaccinated people are being motivated to get the COVID shot. On Monday, we heard success stories from hospitals, universities and France on the efficacy of the vaccine mandate on convincing people to get vaccinated. Wednesday’s segment featured harrowing data on the new Delta variant and explored an article from the New York Times on the reasons people who choose to vaccinated now are doing so. You can read the weekly summary [here](#).

Advocacy Alerts and Hill News:

1. **Senate votes to move forward on infrastructure. Congressional update.** The Senate negotiators and the White House reached an agreement on a bipartisan infrastructure bill. A White House Fact sheet on the deal can be found [here](#). The Senate took a procedural vote and passed a motion 67-32 agreeing to proceed with debate on the bipartisan infrastructure deal that was announced earlier.. Minority Leader McConnell voted in favor of proceeding in addition to a number of other Republicans. This does not guarantee that the bill will ultimately pass but it is a critical juncture.

So far, the Senate has been operating on the assumption that if they get this bipartisan infrastructure proposal passed, it will help assuage concerns of more moderate Democrats about the size of the reconciliation package and concerns about partisanship. However, there are also more progressive Senators who do not want to see the bipartisan bill go forward without guarantees that a reconciliation package will follow. These concerns must be balanced. Another factor is the House- Nancy Pelosi has said she isn't going to move the bipartisan bill without the more expansive package and a number of House progressives have said on social media today they won't vote for the bipartisan bill without action on a more expansive package. We encourage you to [take action here](#) to ensure our priorities are heard as these dynamics play out.

2. **National Academies release Alzheimer's Decadal Study, plan workshop.** Today the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine posted "[Reducing the Impact of Dementia in America: A Decadal Study of Behavioral and Social Science Research](#)." The report presents a ten year plan for dementia related research On August 4, from 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET the National Academies will host an event marking the virtual release of the report. Here is a [link](#) to register for the event. In short, the report emphasizes that research should focus on helping people who experience dementia today, on services and supports, not just pharmaceuticals.
3. **Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce Hearing Article.** The House Education and Labor Subcommittees on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions and the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment held a joint hearing, titled "[Care for Our Communities: Investing in the Direct Care Workforce](#)" on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. The hearing was an opportunity to address the *Direct Creation, Advancement and Retention of Employment (CARE) Opportunity Act* (H.R. 2999), sponsored by House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA). You can access an article on the hearing [here](#).
4. **Paycheck Protection Program Update.** The [SBA](#) announced that they plan to launch a [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) portal on August 4 that should speed up decisions on whether the still outstanding loans of 150,000 or less will be forgiven or if businesses will need to repay them. Rather than working with your lender, there's a good chance you'd be able to work directly with the SBA if you took a loan of 150k or less. Lenders would still have a say in whether the debt is converted to a grant but the idea is to reduce the workload burden on the financial institutions and also speed up the process for businesses. We will send any more information from SBA on the portal when we have it.

5. **DOL Published Rule Increasing the Minimum Wage for Federal Contractors.** The Department of Labor recently published a [proposed rule on increasing the minimum wage for federal contractors](#). Comments are due on August 23, 2021. This follows up on the [Executive Order](#) President Biden signed in April 2021 to increase the federal minimum wage for federal contractors. The rule is similar to what the Obama administration did back in 2014, when a DOL final rule increased the minimum wage for federal contractors to \$10.10/hr. It is now \$10.95/hr based on indexed increases. This would apply to new federal contracts or contract renewals starting or after January 30, 2022. It would apply to those nursing homes and other provider types that specifically contract with the VA for the care of residents who are veterans and get reimbursed through the VA system. This does **not** apply to providers who just take Medicare and Medicaid – they are not federal contractors under this order, but rather just get reimbursement under these programs. We will continue to review and analyze the proposed rule and provide updates as we get more information.

Important Announcements from LeadingAge:

1. **New Education Program Tracks at the 2021 LeadingAge Annual Meeting + EXPO.** Join us this fall at the 2021 LeadingAge Annual Meeting to be connected to learning opportunities that you simply can't find anywhere else. We don't shy away from the tough topics—and you can count on your peers 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. New this year: special program tracks dedicated to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Governance and Leadership. [Learn more and register.](#)