

Senior Housing Weekly: Recap of LeadingAge Updates

November 20, 2020

No Housing Advisory Group Call on Monday, 11/23 – There will be no Housing Advisory Group call on Monday, November 23rd ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. Calls will resume on Monday, November 30th at 12:30pm EST – the Housing Advisory Group meets weekly to discuss affordable housing operations issues and solutions, with updates from LeadingAge staff or other speakers and peer-to-peer sharing opportunities. Email Juliana at jbilowich@leadingage.org to join the calls or to suggest topic ideas for the calls. Our next guest speaker appearance on the Housing Advisory Group will feature a discussion on electronic signature guidance with HUD staff.

HUD issues revised electronic signature guidance; HUD staff to join HAG call – HUD issued revisions to their [electronic signature guidance](#). HUD’s electronic signature guidance from May 2020 permits (but does not require) HUD multifamily partners to use electronic signatures and electronic file transmission and retention. The revised Notice replaces the earlier guidance and provides updates to two sections, including the eligible Multifamily Housing programs and access of EIV data by Independent Public Auditors. More information on the electronic signature guidance is available [here](#). We have invited HUD staff to join an upcoming Housing Advisory Group call to answer questions about the Notice; please send advance questions to Juliana (jbilowich@leadingage.org).

State of the Nation’s Housing 2020. Harvard released its annual [report](#) on all-things-housing, including sobering statistics on housing affordability, including housing affordability challenges for older adults. Widening income inequality means more households who are the poorest and more who are the wealthiest. For the poorest older adults, the report makes clear that neither homeownership or rental housing provide protection from high housing cost burdens that force drastic cuts in spending on other life necessities like food and healthcare.

Thanksgiving Plan Survey Results: In early November, 113 LeadingAge members across the country participated in our Community Holiday Plan Survey. This survey gave us an important “pulse check” on members’ plans for resident and staff travel, on-property gatherings and visitors, and “return to work” or “return to campus” policies. You can read our summary in this [article](#). Here, again, is the [CDC guidance on Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings](#). Finally, here is a [COVID-19 Event Risk Assessment Planning Tool](#) from Georgia Institute of Technology. The map allows users to plug in the number of people for a planned event and the location to figure out the risk level of the event. The interactive tool’s lead designer will be a guest on the LeadingAge Update call on December 2.

Avoid Fraudulent Flu and COVID-19 Products – The FDA issued a new [Consumer Update](#) urging consumers to avoid fraudulent flu products and offering tips on how to spot them. These unproven products, sold online and in stores, haven’t been evaluated by the FDA for safety and effectiveness. Know that there are no legally marketed over-the-counter (non-prescription) drugs to prevent, mitigate, treat, or cure the flu. But there are legal over-the-counter (OTC) drugs to reduce fever and to relieve muscle aches, congestion, and other symptoms typically associated with the flu. The agency has been

and will continue to take action against bad actors, as evidenced by sending [warning letters](#) to companies offering for sale medical products with fraudulent claims to prevent, mitigate, treat, or cure COVID-19.