



Senior Housing Weekly Update

May 14, 2021

Monday, April 26, Housing Advisory Group Call. Join us for our regular LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group calls on Mondays at 12:30pm ET. On May 17, we'll review the latest on HUD's efforts to increase vaccine access and go over new CDC guidance on masking; we'll also discuss considerations for adjusting community policies. Any member can join the Housing Advisory Group by adding it to their account's Online Subscriptions or by emailing [Linda](#) or [Juliana](#).

Should we be jumping back to "normal" so quickly? Another point of view. Join us for the LeadingAge Coronavirus Update Call this Monday, May 17 as we talk with Dr. Ali Mokdad from the Institute of Health Metrics Evaluation from the University of Washington. Dr. Mokdad predicted yesterday that as vaccinations continue, confirmed cases and deaths will decline into the summer, leading many to assume "COVID-19 is gone," even as outbreaks in places like India carry the potential to fuel new, more virulent variants. He said "the race is to vaccinate as much as we can before we go into the winter," adding that the current percentage of the population vaccinated is not high enough to stop another wave of infections. He will provide updates on his group's analysis of trends in coronavirus cases and what the trends seem to be indicating. If you haven't signed up for Update Calls yet, you can do so [here](#).

HUD Discusses New REAC Protocol on LeadingAge Call; LeadingAge Calls for Stronger Risk Mitigation during Inspection Restart. This week, staff from HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) joined a LeadingAge call for housing providers to discuss the [new approach to physical inspections](#) during COVID-19. Under Inspector Notice 2021-01, inspections will significantly increase starting June 1, and housing providers will receive both a 28-day and a 14-day notice. However, inspectors are not required to be vaccinated and will undergo testing only every 30 days. LeadingAge has sent a [letter](#) to REAC requesting stronger action to mitigate COVID-19 risk in senior housing communities, for example by requiring unvaccinated inspectors to get tested no more than 72 hours prior to inspection and by exploring alternate approaches for physical condition oversight, including remote video inspections.

HUD Publishes Physical Inspection Resident Flyer in 19 Languages. HUD published translated versions of the resident flyer for HUD's new physical inspection approach. The flyer, which explains resident rights and options related to [restarting inspections during the pandemic](#), is available in [19 different languages](#).

New CDC guidance on Masking. CDC issued revised guidance this week on what people can do "[When You've Been Fully Vaccinated](#)." They state that people who have been fully vaccinated can "start to do some things that they had stopped doing because of the pandemic." Fully vaccinated people can resume indoor and outdoor activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except where federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules or regulations or local business or workplace guidance is different. No testing is required for travel within the US, unless required by the destination. International travelers are advised to get tested 3-5 days after finishing the travel. Vaccinated people

exposed to those with COVID do not need to quarantine or be tested unless they have symptoms. Healthcare, correctional, and homelessness organizations are expressly NOT included in this guidance. LeadingAge members, particularly those who serve people in independent living settings, will likely face many questions and new requests from residents. We look forward to hearing from LeadingAge members about the questions and issues that come up and discussing considerations for adjusting community policies.

HUD Announces COVID-19 Vaccine Partnership Webinars. Following last week’s HUD and HHS announcement of a [joint effort to increase vaccine access](#) at HUD-assisted communities, the department today announced it is hosting COVID-19 webinars focusing on housing and health partnerships, the COVID-19 vaccine, and community health workers.

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Challenge: Tools and Resources**
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm (ET)
Building on the joint HUD-HHS Partnership, presenters will highlight ways you can further your COVID-19 vaccination effort, including mapping tools, transportation opportunities, and examples of successful COVID-19 vaccination partnerships. [Registration link](#)
- **The Missing Link: Community Health Workers**
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | 2:00 – 3:30 pm (ET)
Looking for trusted messengers in your community? They've been there all along! Resident champions bridge the gap between health and housing: see how Community Health Workers can boost your vaccine efforts! [Registration link](#)

HUD also announced a COVID-19 Vaccine Challenge and is co-hosting virtual “[vaccine confidence boot camps](#)” with the CDC.

New Action Alert On Blueprint For A Better Aging Infrastructure. This week, all LeadingAge members received an action alert urging them to contact Congress. This action alert highlights our Blueprint for Building A Better Aging Infrastructure; housing providers can ask members of Congress to support and pass these critical programs that will help us strengthen our infrastructure for caring for older adults, including more affordable senior housing and broadband infrastructure. [ACT NOW by contacting your U.S. Representative and Senators and ask them to invest in our aging services infrastructure.](#)

White House Issues Guidance for New Emergency Rental Assistance Funds. As eviction moratoria and rent backlogs continue across the country, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the allocation of additional funds for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA). The additional \$21.6 billion in emergency rent relief funds were approved under the American Rescue Plan in March and complement the initial \$25 billion approved by Congress in December to assist impacted renters with back rent, future rent, and utility payments. Nearly 7 million Americans reported being behind on rent in the second half of April, and more than 40% of those renters reported concerns that they could be evicted in the next two months. The new guidance allows assistance to reach renters more quickly, including by cutting down wait time, offering assistance to renters directly instead of the housing providers first, and by clearing the path for federally-subsidized renters to receive assistance. More info on the new guidance [here](#).

LeadingAge Featured in Service Coordinator Podcast as Emergency Broadband Benefit Goes Live. This week, LeadingAge was featured in National Church Resident's Service Coordinator podcast. The episode discusses the new Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program, which provides a monthly discount on internet services and opened for enrollment on May 12. More info on the EBB is available [here](#), and the podcast episode is available [here](#).

HUD Launches Fair Housing "Table Talk" Series. HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) this week announced its inaugural "FHEO Table Talks" Series. The series engages fair housing and civil rights stakeholders in one-on-one conversations to develop sound housing policies and strengthen HUD's partnerships with leading community stakeholders. FHEO will host Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, Chief of Race, Wealth and Community for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), on the [first episode](#); the series will be made available monthly.

FEMA Funeral Assistance: FEMA is accepting [applications for funeral assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses](#). As of Monday, May 10, the agency has received nearly 174,000 applications, approved more than 2,200 of those applications and distributed more than \$15.5 million. FEMA also released state-specific information on valid applications, funeral assistance disbursed, and number of applicants awarded.

Multifamily Housing: CDC [updated their considerations for owners and operators of multifamily housing](#), including populations at increased risk for complications from COVID-19. The guidance is provided to help owners, administrators, and operators of multifamily housing work together with residents, staff, and public health officials to create a safe living environment and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Public health actions needed to reduce the spread of COVID-19, such as social distancing, can lead some people to feel isolated and lonely or can increase stress and anxiety. This page provides guidance in assessing and reducing exposure risks and resources for coping with stress in healthy ways.

Percent of Doses Administered: CDC [updated their map and information on the percent of COVID-19 doses administered](#). The map shows the percentage of first doses of vaccines that have been administered in each state from their supply, which can be used to understand how states are using their supply to initiate vaccination within their community.