



**MEMBER BRIEFING:  
Additional Testing Guidance, BCU ORCHARDS Training, Consolidated Visitation  
Guidance  
July 29, 2020**

**OF SPECIAL NOTE**

**Act For Older Adults: Contact YOUR Representatives**

The Act for Older Adults campaign is in full swing as we work together to ensure that Congress's next relief package includes support that's aligned with our [Five Essential Actions for Older Adults](#). Visit the [campaign page](#) for ideas on how to get involved. And jump in now by calling or sending an email to your [representative using this Action Alert](#).

And, don't forget to send love and thanks to care workers on [Direct Care Worker Appreciation Day](#) tomorrow, July 30, six months after the day the World Health Organization declared coronavirus a global health emergency. We invite all Americans to acknowledge those who have gone above and beyond to protect the health and well-being of older adults during this pandemic.

**Consolidated Resident Visitation and Community Outing Guidance**

LeadingAge Oregon compiled APD's guidance for limited outdoor visitation, compassionate care visitation and community outing guidance into one document. Access the document [here](#).

**STATE NEWS**

**APD Issues Additional Testing Guidance**

So far this week DHS, Adult and People with Disabilities has issued the following provider alerts related to long term care facility testing.

- **[NF-20-102 Provider Alert: LTC Testing Packet](#).**

This alert pertains to Governor Brown's mandate that all residents be offered testing and all staff be tested by September 30, 2020. It indicates that all licensed nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities are required to **complete a [LTC Testing Progress Report Survey](#) by 11:59pm, this Friday, July 31, 2020.**

Safety, Oversight and Quality (SOQ) is sending the survey to gather testing data from all LTC facilities required by [OAR 411-060-0050](#) (1) that states: "By the last day of July, August, and September 2020, each Facility must submit to DHS...a summary report attesting to Facility Staff, Associated Staff and Resident testing completed since June 1, 2020, and listing remaining Facility Staff and Associated Staff to be tested and Residents to be offered

testing.” In addition to collecting required reporting data, the survey includes questions to help identify additional support facilities might need to complete the initial round of testing called for in the [Oregon LTC Facility Testing Plan](#). For questions about this survey, please contact the team at SOQ at [SOQ.LTCinfo@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:SOQ.LTCinfo@dhsosha.state.or.us)

The alert also contains steps that must be taken to ensure that testing is trauma-informed and culturally responsive. It includes a [YouTube video on the history of medical testing on marginalized communities](#) that must be viewed by every person administering testing.

- **[NF-20-106 Provider Alert: Initial Baseline Testing Reimbursement.](#)**

This alert contains an [invoice reimbursement form for \*initial\* baseline testing](#) that is to be used by providers that are NOT using the state contracted vendor to complete the initial baseline testing of all residents and staff by September 30, 2020. Costs must have been incurred between June 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020. At this point providers may only submit for one round of testing. Facilities may begin submitting claims for reimbursement immediately.

- **[NF-20-103 Provider Alert: Non Initial Staff Testing Reimbursement.](#)**

This alert contains an [invoice reimbursement form for \*non-initial\* testing](#) that is to be used to submit reimbursement for the costs of testing frontline staff that is separate and distinct from the initial baseline testing requirements announced by Governor Brown and described in [OAR 411-060-0020](#). Costs must have incurred on or after March 2, 2020. Facilities may begin submitting claims for reimbursement immediately. DHS will only reimburse providers until \$2.5 million is reimbursed.

### **Background Check Unit Releases Training Resources on New System**

DHS, SOQ released [training resources](#) to familiarize providers on the new database and processing system to be used for abuse and criminal record checks. The new system, called the Oregon Criminal History and Abuse Records Data System ([ORCHARDS](#)) replaces the Criminal Records Information Management System (CRIMS) which has been in use since October 2011. ORCHARDS is more secure and clients needing background checks will find it be more user friendly and accessible to agencies and subject individuals. See [NF-20-104 - NEW Crim Check Database ORCHARDS](#).

### **APD Extends EWE for Eligible Individuals**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and Presidential Emergency Declaration, APD has extended Extended Waiver Eligibility (EWE) for individuals for the duration of the emergency declaration. This prevents the closing or reduction of some benefits to Medicaid eligible individuals. See [NF-20-105 - EWE Extension for Eligible Individuals](#).

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **HUD Discusses CARES Act Payments on LeadingAge Call**

On July 27, key HUD staff joined the LeadingAge Housing Advisory Group call to answer member questions about the COVID-19 Supplemental Payments, or CSPs. The HUD

headquarters staff on the call are overseeing the distribution of the CARES Act's COVID-19 relief funds for Section 8, Section 202, and Section 811 programs.

Following HUD's July 23 announcement of the process for owners to request reimbursement for COVID-19 costs, HUD staff answered advance questions from LeadingAge members during the call. Application request forms for the COVID-19 Supplemental Payment (CSP) funds are due to HUD by August 5, and a recording of the call is [here](#). More information about the Housing Notice and Request Form is available [here](#). Read the full article [here](#).

### **HEALS Act Highlights for Aging Services**

On July 27, 2020, the Senate introduced the HEALS Act – the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools Act. The package was introduced as a series of individual bills originating in the Appropriates, HELP, Finance, Small Business and Judiciary Committees. In addition to bills introduced by the Chairs of those Committees, Senator Cornyn introduced the SAFE TO WORK Act which addresses liability protections; Senator Tim Scott introduced a bill to increase the tax deductibility of business meals from 50 to 100%, and Senator Romney introduced the TRUST Act which instructs Congress to consider mechanisms to address the sustainability of mandatory programs like Medicare and Social Security. [This article](#) outlines key provisions of the HEALS Act of interest to LeadingAge members.

**Provider Relief Fund Private Pay Only Assisted Living Data Collection Effort Update.** The multi-association plan for private pay only assisted living (and residential care providers) to submit data for potential receipt of provider relief funds was to make the portal link and instructions available today. However, while the portal is built, when providers tested it today by entering their data, some glitches were identified. Therefore, the vendor is working to fix those glitches and retest before LeadingAge distributes the portal to members. Given this set back, the associations asked for and received an extension for submitting the data to HHS to August 5, which will likely result in the member submission deadline being extended but that is not yet confirmed. LeadingAge will communicate the portal information as soon as they are able and appreciate everyone's patience.