



MEMBER BRIEFING:
June 10 - LTC Testing, Provider Tax, Additional Provider Relief Funds
June 10, 2020

OF SPECIAL NOTE

All Residents and Staff in Long Term Care Facilities to be Tested

Yesterday evening, Governor Brown announced a plan for comprehensive COVID-19 testing of all residents and staff in long-term care facilities, prioritizing those facilities at greatest risk for outbreaks. She directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Department of Human Services to implement the plan, stating that expanding testing is an essential first step to allow for the examination of how visitation policies can be safely and incrementally eased. See the Governor's [announcement](#).

Steps that need to be taken prior to launching of the plan include initiating a communication strategy for informing facility operators, health care providers, and laboratories about the new plan, and updating testing guidelines. OHA and DHS will also be working with long-term care facilities to implement recommended best practices for ongoing monitoring, including:

- Conducting active daily screenings for fever and COVID-like symptoms for all residents and staff, providing testing for any residents or staff with even mild symptoms. Residents who test positive should be isolated.
- Providing testing for all staff every month on a staggered weekly basis, with the goal of having 25% of all staff tested each week over the course of the month.
- Providing testing for all residents and staff if there is a single new confirmed or suspected resident case or a confirmed staff case and retesting weekly until at least 14 days pass without a new positive result. Residents who test positive and are symptomatic should be isolated.
- Testing all new residents prior to admission or readmission, including transfers from hospitals or other health care facilities. Even new residents who test negative should be quarantined for 14 days.

Today, Mike McCormick, APD Interim Director, sent a communication to stakeholders reminding them to remain diligent in their efforts to prevent new infections including continuing with current infection control strategies. He indicated that as of now, all of APD's COVID-19 policies remain in place recognizing the hardship it creates, but adding that "we must be very cautious about potential exposure, especially in large, congregate long-term care facilities, as the consequences can be dire."

He indicated that in the coming days, OHA and DHS will release full details of the testing plan. He added that APD will soon have more information on how visitation policies will adapt as counties throughout the state enter Phase 2 of reopening. APD is also drafting rules to reimburse facilities for testing of staff.

Medicaid Providers: Apply for Provider Relief Funds, Application Portal Opens Today

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it will distribute funds to Medicaid providers who do not participate in Medicare, including **Assisted Living** and **Adult Day**, through the Provider Relief Fund through a time-limited application process vs. automatic payment. The application portal opens on June 10 (today). Nick Uehlecke from Secretary Alex Azar's office will be on LeadingAge national's call this

Friday at 12:30 PST to answer member questions. Please send questions for Nick to Nicole (nfallon@leadingage.org).

To be eligible for this funding, health care providers must not have received payments from the \$50 billion Provider Relief Fund General Distribution, participate in Medicaid and/or CHIP Programs and either have billed Medicaid or Medicaid managed care between January 1, 2018, to May 31, 2020.

Unlike prior Provider Relief Fund distributions, for this distribution, providers must apply by submitting required information through the new enhanced Provider Relief Fund Payment Portal that opens today. HHS has said providers will need to submit annual patient revenue and # of Medicaid patients/beneficiaries served, (not sure for what year). Providers will be eligible to receive payments of at least 2% of reported gross revenue from patient care.

The portal will remain open for applications until July 3. Here is an [article](#) covering this information.

LeadingAge Oregon Ageless Art Show Will be an Online Event

Due to COVID-19 our Ageless Art Show will be an online event this year. This will ensure that residents can still take part while keeping everyone safe. Since it will be difficult to judge the amazing work from photos, we will not be judging this year, we will however still have an online video of all the art submitted. Entry forms are available [here](#). The entry deadline is **August 10, 2020**.

Wage Survey

The LeadingAge Oregon annual Wage Survey has gone out. Those who complete the survey will receive the raw data as well as averages in each category. Participating communities will not be identified in the report. Access the 2020 Wage Survey [here](#).

STATE NEWS

Metro Counties Offer Public Health COVID-19 Webinars

Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington County Public Health will continue their webinar series **this Friday, June 12 at 3:00 pm** for the third webinar which will focus on **what happens if your facility has a positive test result for COVID-19 and the process if an outbreak occurs**. They will go over the general process and any county-specific protocols and then will have time for Q&A. Also, please fill out this [brief survey](#) so they can tailor these sessions to your specific needs. [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Summit

Complimentary to Providers - June 15

Please join LeadingAge Oregon, the Oregon Health Care Association (OHCA), and the Department of Human Service (DHS) for the "Elder Abuse Awareness and Prevention Summit." This event will be held virtually on June 15 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and is being provided complimentary to registrants to support providers during this difficult time.

The event will provide educational content and also commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, which is held annually on June 15. The purpose of this important day is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

Register [here](#). CEUs will be issued.

COVID-19 National Health Safety Network Data Accuracy

Beginning May 8th, CMS required nursing facilities to report all confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Health Safety Network (NHSN).

Safety, Oversight and Quality nursing facility licensing unit (NFLU) has preliminarily reviewed the data submitted by Oregon nursing facilities of confirmed COVID-19 and COVID-19 related death for the weeks ending on May 24, 2020 and May 31, 2020 and compared it the data reported to NFLU by facilities. NFLU discovered many inconsistencies in the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and in the total number of COVID-19 related deaths. **As a result, DHS is requesting that each facility review the data submitted to the NHSN and ensure any inaccuracies are identified and corrected prior to submitting data for the week ending June 14, 2020.** Obtain the administrator alert on this [here](#).

Provider Tax and Nursing Facility Rates Effective July 1st

At a meeting last week and subsequent follow-up this week, Adult and People with Disabilities has confirmed the provider tax to be effective for FY20-21. The significant challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic were taken into consideration in setting the rate. APD will be adding line items to the cost report to identify both revenue and expenditures related to COVID and will be providing training for the preparers of the cost report. Following are the provider tax and nursing facility rates effective July 1, 2020 and the corresponding increase. The current rate reflects the rates prior to the 10% COVID increase for the period of April 1 through June 30, 2020.

	FY2021 Effective 7/1/20	FY2020 Current	Increase
Provider Tax	\$25.92	\$25.44	
Basic	\$334.87	\$326.50	2.56%
Complex (140% of Basic)	\$468.82	\$457.10	2.56%
Pediatric	\$775.87	\$732.41	5.93%
Ventilator (235% of Basic)	\$786.94		
Bariatric (185% of Basic)	\$619.51		

RESOURCES

Complimentary Webinar – Do’s and Don’ts of Employee Appreciation During Tough Times - June 24 at 1:00 pm Appreciation is always vital to your organizational culture and employee engagement, but it is especially so when you are dealing with a crisis. During this session, you’ll learn the common traps that organizations fall into and what you should never do when it comes to sharing meaningful appreciation. We’ll also talk about what you should be doing as a leader to spread hope, positivity, and thanks to team members who are doing so much.

LeadingAge Oregon, Washington, and California are working together to sponsor this complimentary webinar by DRIVE Culture Outcomes. Be sure to register ahead of time, as there are a limited number of spots available. **See the flyer [here](#). Register [here](#).**

Nursing Practice in Community-Based Care: A Training for Nurses in ALFs, RCFs, and Memory Care

LeadingAge Oregon and instructor Demi Haffenreffer have converted the in-person classes we typically offer, to webinar-based instruction.

- Tuesday, June 16 – Thursday, June 18, 2020
- 9:00 am – 1:00 each day
- See more [here](#) and register [here](#)