



## **CORONAVIRUS MEMBER BRIEFING:**

**March 30, 2020**

### **Of Special Note:**

Be sure to join us this Friday, April 3 at 10 am for a webinar covering the new federal laws and their impact to you as an employer, including the latest guidance from Department of Labor on FMLA. The webinar is being developed for LeadingAge Oregon and LeadingAge Washington members and will have specific issues relevant to both states. **Please send any specific questions you would like to be addressed to Ruth at [rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org](mailto:rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org).** More information about how to register will be available tomorrow.

**Breaking News:** This evening CMS Issued a Declaration of COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers that can be accessed [here](#). Tonight LeadingAge Policy Staff are putting put together three very high level documents depicting what LeadingAge asked for and what was granted, plus some other important additional waivers CMS granted. We will provide this to you tomorrow. They will then take a deeper to provide technical analysis and resource/tool development.

### **STATE NEWS**

#### **Process for Ordering COVID-19 Testing in LTC Settings**

This Saturday, OHA convened a meeting with DHS, the associations, the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Home to discuss issues related to congregate care settings. One of the areas addressed were concerns raised about inconsistencies among local public health authorities about where to send specimens for residents/staff with COVID-19 like illness who live/work in a facility in which COVID-19 has not been identified yet. On Saturday, all agreed that making sure presence of COVID-19 in a facility is identified quickly is the highest priority as that impacts infection control measures that need to be taken immediately.

As a result, this weekend OHA notified local public health authorities via a Health Alert Network to work with LTC providers in following the same process related to testing. That process is outlined in [Provider Alert, NF-20-73](#), Process for ordering COVID-19 Testing in LTC Settings that went out this afternoon. Other material related to Saturday's meeting will be forthcoming this week.

#### **COVID-19 Reporting Reminders**

All Community Based Care facilities are required to immediately report suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19.

If an Executive Order is in place you must:

- Immediately notify the Department any time residents' or staffs' COVID-19 status changes from suspected to confirmed or is reported negative.
- Immediately notify the Department of any new suspected cases of COVID-19.

- Report every Friday by 5:00 pm the status of the COVID-19 virus within the facility, including the status of residents and staff.

The Executive Order restricts the admission or readmission of residents without prior written approval of Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit. If you have a resident who is ready to readmit from the hospital, contact SOQ with details of the readmission. Please include answers to the following questions in your request for admission or readmission:

- Does the resident have confirmed COVID-19?
- Are you waiting for COVID-19 test results for this resident or any other residents?
- Would the resident be admitted or readmitted to a shared room or private room?
- Are there any other residents with signs or symptoms of COVID-19?

Your request will be reviewed, and you will be notified of approval or disapproval as appropriate. Executive Orders are placed on all facilities reporting ANY suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. This reporting must be done promptly. Facilities must immediately notify SOQ of all outcomes of COVID-19 testing.

## RESOURCES & TOOLS

### **LeadingAge National Coronavirus Daily Member Update: LIVE ONLINE**

7 days/week through April 26 at 12:30 p.m. daily (PT) [Register for the entire series here.](#)

After you register, you will receive an email confirmation with your unique weblink, which you can use every day. There will be no telephone option.

**LeadingAge Oregon Member Call Recording with Kelly Odegaard from Westcare Management, operators of the Oregon Veterans' Homes.** Friday, Kelly Odegaard, CEO of Westcare Management, which operates the Oregon Veterans' Homes, joined our call and provided valuable insights and lessons learned from the COVID-19 outbreak in the Veteran's Home in Lebanon, Oregon. Here the recording of the call here.

### **Paid Sick Leave and FMLA in Families First Response Act**

The U.S. Department of Labor added 20 new questions to their document on the Families First Response Act (FFCRA). LeadingAge national updated their [FAQ on New Paid Sick Leave and FMLA Leave in FFCRA](#) document accordingly.

**Who is a “health care provider” who may be excluded by their employer from paid sick leave and/or expanded family and medical leave?** For the purposes of employees who may be exempted from paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave by their employer under the FFCRA, a health care provider is anyone employed at any doctor’s office, hospital, health care center, clinic, post-secondary educational institution offering health care instruction, medical school, local health department or agency, nursing facility, retirement facility, nursing home, home health care provider, any facility that performs laboratory or medical testing, pharmacy, or any similar institution, employer, or entity. This includes any permanent or temporary institution, facility, location, or site where medical services are provided that are similar to such institutions.

This definition includes any individual employed by an entity that contracts with any of the above institutions, employers, or entities institutions to provide services or to maintain the operation of the facility. This also includes anyone employed by any entity that provides medical services, produces medical products, or is otherwise involved in the making of COVID-19 related medical equipment, tests, drugs, vaccines, diagnostic vehicles, or treatments. This also includes any individual that the highest official of a state or territory, including the District of Columbia,

determines is a health care provider necessary for that state's or territory's or the District of Columbia's response to COVID-19.

To minimize the spread of the virus associated with COVID-19, the Department encourages employers to be judicious when using this definition to exempt health care providers from the provisions of the FFCRA.

### **Visitors at End-of-Life**

There have been many questions about visitors during end-of-life scenarios. To help, LeadingAge national developed a [Flowchart for Screening Hospice Workers and Visitors at the End-of-Life](#). The visualization depicts inpatient hospice visitor guidance, and screening and guidance for nursing homes.

### **Understanding the CARES Act**

The CARES Act was signed into law on Friday. The bill allocates funding for businesses and individuals affected by the pandemic. LeadingAge national successfully advocated for many of the provisions in the bill. This summary answers the question: [What's in the CARES Act for LeadingAge Members?](#)

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Practical Ideas From Members**

LeadingAge members face new challenges every day as a result of coronavirus. LeadingAge national is gathering examples of the innovative solutions you're deploying to better serve older people and support their staff. Read about how organizations around the country are addressing a range of issues, including:

- [Communicating with Residents](#): How are members helping residents/clients connect with families and friends?
- [Workforce Challenges](#): How are members working to make employees' jobs—and personal challenges—easier?
- [Managing Meals](#): How are members adapting to social distancing with meal delivery?

**LeadingAge** staff experts are developing essential guidance and tools, and curating the most relevant resources for aging services providers. Here are some of the most recent additions:

- [CMS Telehealth Toolkit for Nursing Homes](#)
- [Federal Coronavirus Response Increases Medicaid Funding for States](#)