



**MEMBER BRIEFING:
State Reopening, QM Relief, New PPP Info
May 14, 2020**

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Oregon's First Phase of Reopening

Today Governor Brown and Patrick Allen, Director of the Oregon Health Authority announced that 28 counties, most in rural areas, will move into the first phase of reopening after being shut down due to COVID-19. Counties are required to meet certain criteria and submit an application to be considered for approval to reopen. Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties have not yet submitted an application. Applications from Polk and Marion County were rejected at this time in part because they have new cases that cannot be traced to earlier cases. More information is being sought from Jefferson, Umatilla and Morrow counties before a decision will be made to allow reopening. See this article for more information. [KGW-28 Counties to Reopen](#)

STATE NEWS

ALF/RCF Providers Given Quality Metrics Reporting Relief During COVID-19

Assisted living and residential care facilities were instructed to begin collecting data on five quality metrics in 2020 to report the data beginning January 31, 2021. Those metrics are 1) Retention of Direct Care Staff, 2) Compliance with Staff Training Requirements, 3) Number of Resident Falls that Result in Injury, 4) Use of Antipsychotic Medications for Nonstandard Use and 5) an Annual Resident Satisfaction Survey. Due to challenges providers are experiencing due to the pandemic and not wanting to place an extra burden on providers, the Quality Measurement Council made the decision to not require providers to begin reporting 2020 data in January 2021. Instead, ALFs/RCFs will be asked to report in the Quality Metrics Application portal whether they were able to track each metric via a simple yes and no response. LeadingAge Oregon advocated for reporting relief and will keep members apprised of additional information as it is provided by APD and the Council.

POLST Registration

Submissions to the Oregon POLST Registry have declined nearly 40% during the COVID-19 pandemic. The following established standards facilitate virtual POLST form completion:

1. Verbal orders (following institutional verbal order procedures) are valid and accepted by both EMS and the Registry.
2. The patient or surrogate signature is not required on the Oregon POLST form. It is necessary to indicate with whom the POLST form was discussed (Section C)
3. Photocopies on white paper are valid
4. Health care professionals can print blank POLST forms from the POLST web site (more details are on our Professional Resources page) <https://oregonpolst.org/professional-resources>

Here is a link to a quick video that is less than two minutes: [Virtual Visits: Providing access to POLST during COVID-19](#).

NATIONAL NEWS

New information on the Paycheck Protection Program

The Small Business Administration added to its FAQs about the PPP loan program today. In this [article](#), LeadingAge national explains that the “certification” of need required by SBA for loans less than \$2M will be presumed in good faith for purposes of loan forgiveness. The SBA explains that it is focused primarily on assessing certification of need for loans over \$2M. In addition, there was some worry among borrowers about potential criminal penalties the government had alluded to in previous FAQ answers; today’s additions to the FAQs resolve that borrowers deemed not to have needed a PPP loan will have an opportunity to repay the loan without criminal penalties.

RESOURCES

Educational Opportunities

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

- **Navigating MDS 3.0: RAI Training for Nursing Facility Staff**
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 26, 28 and June 2, 4 and 9, 2020
 - 10:00 am – 12:30
 - See more [here](#) and register [here](#)
- **Nursing Practice in Community-Based Care: A Training for Nurses in ALFs, RCFs, and Memory Care**
 - Tuesday, June 16 – Thursday, June 18, 2020
 - 9:00 am – 1:00 each day
 - See more [here](#) and register [here](#)