



MEMBER BRIEFING: September 11, 2020

Our Thoughts Are With You - Our Heroes

As I write this looking out at the smoke, the silence and stillness is reminiscent of the start of the pandemic not knowing where the days ahead will take us. In our communities, you, the heroic, continued what you always do – serving those entrusted to your care under day-to-day changing requirements and guidance as we continue to learn more about this insidious virus. Then in with the hot easterly Labor Day winds, the wildfires hit – and you again demonstrate your heroism under extremely stressful conditions. Stories members have shared this week are so inspiring. From staff eager to go help others in communities having to evacuate, to members welcoming evacuated residents into their communities, to members without having to be asked arriving with resources and offers to help deliver items to evacuated residents, to members delivering meals to assisted living residents evacuated to a hotel in another city, to members helping staff that have had to evacuate with housing needs and others in figuring out how to help those that have suffered the tragic loss of housing. A member having to evacuate, said she just couldn't believe the amount of support, another said it moved her to tears being a part of such a community – that is who you are – and for that we are forever inspired and humbled. A few weeks ago a members said: "Did you know an eagle will wait for a storm and at the right time fly into it to soar higher because of the up drafts...that is the majority our staff... we will soar higher in the end." Our strength comes from each other – and with each other we rise above to meet the challenges and continue to serve. Thank you! We hope you are all safe – our thoughts are always with you. Please let us know what we can do to support you.

STATE NEWS

Wildfire Resources & Lessons Learned This Week

Both Safety, Oversight and Quality (SOQ) in DHS and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) have published resources to help providers during the unprecedented number of wildfires across the state. Provider Alert [NF-20-120](#) asks providers to contact SOQ if they need additional support due to the fires and to also let them know if they are able to assist in caring for evacuated residents. At a later date, APD will be distributing guidance on what services, if any, may be billed to Medicaid for costs incurred as a result of the wildfires. Access the OHA Wildfire Resources [here](#).

In a meeting today APD indicated they have helped over 60 providers evacuate this week. They said to remind providers to check in with providers they have transfer agreements with to confirm a transfer as some of those may also be in an evacuation zone. Another lesson learned this week is if you need to evacuate residents to another assisted living facility, you may want

to consider taking your own beds with you as not all facilities where residents are being evacuated to have beds in every room.

POC Testing Guidance Forthcoming

We have been reporting that OHA has been working on developing guidance on Point of Care (POC) testing for COVID-19 in long term care facilities. Release of the guidance that will contain information on how POC testing should be used, how it should be interpreted, reporting requirements and CLIA certification has been pushed back to next week.

Additional Quality Metric Webinars Scheduled

SOQ has scheduled additional webinars in October and November on “What Providers Need to Know for 2020” regarding changes to reporting quality metrics for 2020. Changes to the reporting requirements were greatly simplified but providers are still required to report on the metrics. The remaining dates for the webinar follow:

- Tuesday, Sept. 22nd from 9:30-10:30
- Thursday, Oct. 15th from 10:30-11:30
- Thursday, Nov. 17th from 10:30-11:30

Obtain the letter that went to providers [here](#) that contains the login information.

NATIONAL NEWS

CDC releases COVID-19 recommendations for Multifamily Housing providers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released considerations and recommendations for operators of multifamily housing communities during COVID-19. Building on the CDC’s coronavirus guidance for other congregate settings, including retirement homes and shared housing, the CDC’s new considerations are tailored specifically to multifamily housing providers serving sensitive individuals.

In its consideration for multifamily housing communities, the CDC offers infection control recommendations for a number of operational scenarios and recommendations:

- Unit turn-over and move-ins
- Visitors, service providers, and prospective tenants
- Loneliness and social isolation among older adult residents
- Resident communication systems
- Protections for at-risk residents and staff
- In-unit maintenance and Inspections
- Safe communal spaces
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Property signage and messaging
- Mask policies and social distancing
- Confirmed COVID-19 cases

The newly available CDC webpage is titled [“Considerations for Owners and Operators of Multifamily Housing Including Populations at Increased Risk for Complications from COVID-19.”](#) LeadingAge national assisted HUD and the CDC in compiling the new information.

CMS Hosts Testing Webinar: Abbott Rapid Tests to be Sent to Some Nursing Homes

On Tuesday CMS hosted a webinar focusing on the testing requirements and subsequent regulations of the Interim Final Rule with comment. Seema Verma and the CMS survey team gave a broad overview of the CMS IFC 3041 - Interim Final Rule, subsequent guidance and the new Infection Control (IC) Training Program. She stressed a call to action to nursing homes for infection control, testing and training to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID. Although in some states cases are trending downward, CMS is still seeing practices and protocol that need to be improved. The Administrator acknowledged that as the rule was rolled out, concerns have emerged in rural areas access to testing and community positivity rates. CMS will be working on these issues in the weeks to come. See the slide deck [here](#) and access the recording of the webinar [here](#).