



## **MEMBER BRIEFING: September 18, 2020**

### **WILDFIRE IMPACT**

As we regroup and assess where we are at emerging from the disaster created by the wildfires, we have learned of the loss suffered by staff who have either lost their homes and those who have been displaced for an undetermined amount of time due to evacuation. During the night last Tuesday, Pacific Retirement Services in Medford had to evacuate 1,100 residents from their licensed settings, independent living and affordable housing properties. Many were able to return on Wednesday and Thursday. Tragically, an unbelievable number of staff -21- have lost their home and at least another 25 have been displaced. I reached out to see how people may help. Our friend and colleague, Dena Hilton, Executive VP of Administration at PRS, indicated they are accepting tax deductible contributions to the PRS Foundation HELP Fund, which provides aid to employees who are victims of all disasters and other emergency hardships. She said gift cards are also welcome.

Contributions may be sent to Dena's attention at the following address:

Pacific Retirement Services  
PRS Foundation HELP Fund  
ATTN: Dena Hilton  
1 W. Main Street, Suite 303  
Medford, OR 97501

Please me ([rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org](mailto:rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org)) know how you have been impacted by the fires, whether staff have lost homes, what you are doing to help and what others may do to help out. Our hearts and thoughts go out to all at PRS and other communities tragically impacted by the wildfires. We are so grateful that no lives were lost and conditions are helping the firefighters...Hope you are all well and safe!

### **STATE NEWS**

#### **Completion of Baseline Testing Reporting and Attestation Requirements**

Safety, Oversight and Quality (SOQ) issued Provider Alert [NF-20-125](#) reminding assisted living, residential care and nursing facilities they must submit test numbers and final attestations by the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for completion of the baseline testing. For communities including both a nursing facility and residential care facility must an attestation must be submitted **for each separate license type**.

- If a facility has **completed 100%** of the required baseline testing, **submit a final attestation** to SOQ using: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y82YWZQ>

- If a facility **has not completed final testing, a progress report must be submitted** using the September Reporting link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DN96RCL>
- **New 9/14/2020** – Once a final attestation has been submitted please submit all **cumulative testing data** to SOQ using: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HVNBV2X>

### **SOQ Infection Control Protocols During Large Scale Evacuations**

SOQ issued Provider Alert [NF-20-124](#) transmitting [Infection Control Recommendations](#) created by the Oregon Health Authority that are intended to reduce the risk of infection for both residents and staff when a facility evacuation has occurred, based on possible evacuation destinations. This guidance can also be found on the [SOQ Unit COVID-19 Website](#).

### **Water Advisory Awareness Following Wildfires**

SOQ issued Provider Alert [NF-20-126](#) offering guidance and awareness information related to potential water district concerns in a providers licensed area. See the following websites:

- [Oregon Public Health Drinking Water Data Online](#)
- [Oregon Map of Impacted Water Districts](#)

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **CMS Revises Visitation Guidance to Allow More Options**

Yesterday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released [QSO-20-39-NH](#) providing revised visitation guidance for nursing homes during COVID-19. The guidance includes guidelines, core principles and best practices for nursing home visitation both indoors and outdoors. The guidance states that for indoor visitation, nursing homes should accommodate and support indoor visitation based on specific guidelines CMS outlined:

- A nursing home should have NO new onset COVID-19 cases in the last 14 days and not be currently conducting outbreak testing.
- Visitors MUST comply with and adhere to the core principles of infection control and staff will need to monitor for any visitor having difficulty adhering.
- The number of visitors per resident should be limited as well as the number of visitors in the building based on size and physical space.
- The movement of visitors in the facility must be limited.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Facilities must await guidance from SOQ based on their review of CMS's revised guidance before making any changes.**