



**CORONAVIRUS MEMBER BRIEFING:
Budget, symp clearance, moveout notice, training materials update, POC
guidance coming, monthly CBC news hour
September 3, 2020**

OF SPECIAL NOTE

POC Antigen Testing Guidance Coming Soon

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will very soon release provisional guidance on the use of point-of-care (POC) antigen testing in long term care facilities. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) plans on completing its distribution of POC antigen testing to nursing homes by September 30th and per OHA's latest update from their federal partners at least 36 POC devices have arrived in OR. On September 2nd, HHS [announced](#) its intention to begin distributing POC antigen tests in mid-September to states and congregate care facilities, including assisted living communities.

STATE NEWS

DHS Submits 21-23 Budget Proposal to the Governor's Office

On Tuesday the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) submitted its [Agency Request Budget \(ARB\)](#) for the 2021-23 biennium to the Governor's office. Next, the Governor will review proposals from all agencies and release the Governor's Requested Budget in December that will go to Oregon lawmakers to produce a state budget by the close of the 2021 Legislative Session. At a stakeholder briefing, Director Pakseresht, spoke to the anticipated \$4 billion shortfall for 2021-23 noting that number could change depending on the state's next few revenue forecasts and whether new federal aid becomes available to help states recover and rebuild from the pandemic.

The Department's budget process includes development of a current service level budget, policy option packages (POPs) for new investments and a 10% reduction budget for 2021-23. To achieve the targeted 10% reduction, ODHS needed to identify a total of \$448 million in potential cuts for the state's general fund for 2021-23. Today, Interim Director of Adult and People with Disabilities (APD), Mike McCormick, sent stakeholders a summary of APD's list of proposed budget reductions that includes proposed cuts to provider reimbursement rates that usually show up in budget reduction exercises. McCormick emphasized it is too early to tell what reductions may ultimately be required. See APD's budget reduction proposal summary [here](#). As always, preventing cuts will be a primary focus of LeadingAge Oregon's advocacy activity.

Recruitment of New APD Director Resumes

As reported last week, ODHS has resumed recruitment for a new APD Director that is expected to result in an offering in mid-November and to have someone new on board in early 2021. The job posting, which closes on October 12, 2020, can be found [here](#). Stakeholder panels will be formed to participate in the process once the candidates have been narrowed to 1 to 4.

CDC Issues New Guidance on Determining When a Person is No Longer Infectious

Yesterday, SOQ issued [NF-20-119](#) transmitting new guidance on determining when a person with COVID-19 is no longer infectious. Because current evidence now supports using a **symptom-based strategy** in this determination, CDC has updated its recommendations concerning home isolation.

- **Individuals with COVID-19 who have symptoms** and are directed to practice isolation may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset **and**
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Other symptoms have improved.
- **Persons infected with COVID-19 who never develop physical COVID-19 symptoms** may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their positive test result.
- **If residents are in the hospital or isolating within the facility:**
 - It is appropriate to use symptom-based clearance.
 - The facility staff should defer to local public health guidelines and recommendations when considering next steps.
 - There is no need to require two negative tests before re- admission into a long-term care setting unless local public health or the resident’s physician has made recommendations based on other underlying concerns.

APD Issues Provider Alert on New Involuntary Move-Out Notices

As follow-up to the immediate rule change made to [OAR 411-054](#) on August 14th to establish new requirements for involuntary move-out notices issued by ALFs/RCFs, this week APD issued a provider alert summarizing the changes. The amended rule requires that:

- Facilities now must consult with DHS prior to issuing a **30 Day Move-Out Notice**; and
- DHS will review all **less than 30 day move-out notices** before they can be issued to the resident or their legal representative.

Safety Oversight and Quality (SOQ) is in the process of establishing an email box for all notices to be emailed to SOQ.Transfers@dhsosha.state.or.us and will notify providers once the email is activated. Notices can also be faxed to 503-378-8966. SOQ instructed providers to continue to use the current move-out notice forms until they are updated. Obtain the alert [here](#).

Quality Metric Webinars Scheduled for September

SOQ has scheduled a webinar 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 webinar has been scheduled for:

- Wednesday, Sept. 9th from 3-4
- Thursday, Sept. 10th from 10:30-11:30
- Tuesday, Sept. 22nd from 9:30-10:30

Obtain the provider alert [here](#) that contains the login information.

APD Updates HCBS Training Materials

This week APD updated their [HCBS website](#) to include the following training materials and frequently asked questions:

- [HCBS APD FAQs](#)
- [Adult Foster Home Conference Handouts](#)

CBS News Hours to Resume Monthly

SOQ will now be holding monthly Community Based Care News Hours. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, September 24 from 9 to 10. To join the news hour copy and paste the following link into the address bar of your web browser <https://meet.dhsoha.state.or.us/warren.d.bird/2LTZCSMP>

Nursing Facilities Reminded to File Cost Reports

APD issued an information memorandum to remind all Nursing Facilities of their reporting requirements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. All Medicaid-contracted nursing facilities with at least 1,000 Medicaid bed days must complete [DHS 0035 - Nursing Facility Financial Statement](#) and non-Medicaid contracted facilities or facilities with fewer than 1,000 Medicaid resident days during a twelve-month reporting period must complete [Nursing Facility Revenue Report](#). All reports are due by October 31, 2020. Per OAR 411-070-0300(2)(a), extensions are no longer granted.

NATIONAL NEWS

Provider Relief Fund Now Open to Private Pay Assisted Living Providers

The Provider Relief Fund Phase 2 General Distribution application process is now open to private pay assisted living providers. HHS announced this development late on September 1 and although the announcement didn't note it, HHS shared with LeadingAge national, that private pay nursing homes are also encouraged to apply using this same process. The deadline to apply is very short -- September 13- - and not expected to be extended so members are encouraged to apply now. Providers approved to receive funds will receive 2% of their patient service revenues. See the full article [here](#).

HUD Announces CARES Act Payments for Service Coordinators and Arranges Call with HUD Staff

Yesterday, HUD announced that CARES Act awards for grant-funded Service Coordinators are now available. The supplemental payments will be approximately 9% of operating budgets, and applications for the payments are due to HUD through GrantSolutions by September 11. LeadingAge national has arranged a call with HUD next **Wednesday, September 9 at 11 am PST** to discuss this and answer questions. Call details follow:

- Feel free to send any advance questions to jbilowich@leadingage.org.
- [Join Skype Meeting](#)
- Join by phone (240) 669-5802
- [Find a local number](#)
- Conference ID: 537899
- [Forgot your dial-in PIN?](#)

[Read more about the call, and detailed instructions to apply for the payments.](#)

LEADINGAGE OREGON

LeadingAge Oregon Virtual Conference

Be sure to take a look at [this brochure](#) that has all of the sessions for our Virtual Conference listed in one convenient place. It is also quick and easy to register [here](#) and is only \$250 for provider members!