



**CORONAVIRUS MEMBER BRIEFING:
OHA Webinar, POLST Guidance, CMS Call
April 7, 2020**

OF SPECIAL NOTE

OHA Webinar to Replace LeadingAge Oregon Member Call this Week

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will be holding a webinar geared towards SNFs, ALFs, and memory care centers this **Friday April 10, 2020 at 3:00-4:30 pm**. Formal invite to follow, but please mark your calendar. They would like to collect questions ahead of time, please direct your questions to Ruth rgulyas@leadingageoregon.org. They will prioritize the questions received by Thursday 4/9 at 5 pm. ***Because of this webinar, LeadingAge Oregon will not have a member call this week.***

STATE NEWS

COVID-19 and Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining

The Practitioner Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a portable form that records a person's treatment wishes towards the end of life. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, it is important for residents to have a POLST that matches the resident's wishes. The POLST form is not a substitute for a do not resuscitate order. A POLST form does not replace an Advance Directive or the requirement that residents should be offered an opportunity to complete an Advance Directive OAR 411-086-004 (3).

Facility Guidance:

- Facilities may not require residents to have a POLST form, but it is highly recommended.
- POLST forms should never be mandatory to admission for any Long-Term Care Facility, but highly recommended with context of the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- If the resident has a POLST review it before sending them to local hospital and follow the resident's wishes with POLST treatment plan.

[Here is a link](#) to guidance on POLST and the Coronavirus prepared by Susan W. Tolle, MD, Chair, Oregon POLST. See the full Provider Alert [here](#).

RESOURCES & TOOLS

This Week's National Live Update Schedule

The team at LeadingAge national has been inspired by the dedication of everyone working at our member organizations. In the midst of a sacred week for many of us, LeadingAge national will pause their live online updates on both Thursday, April 9, and Sunday, April 12, in recognition of Passover and

Easter. Know that they will be working for you through the religious holidays this week, but will take these two days to allow members a chance to observe in their communities and with their loved ones.

You can still expect email updates each weekday morning, and live online updates Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. As always, you can subscribe to "LeadingAge Need to Know" via communications preferences in your [MyLeadingAge account](#) to receive email updates. [Register here](#) for the daily live online updates.

EXTENDED OFFER: COVID-19 Learning Tool

NextStep is offering an informal online course designed to improve the safety of caregivers of all kinds working with COVID-19 patients in all settings. The [COVID-Ready Caregiver program](#) uses expert-developed online learning to help develop safety skills during the pandemic.

The program is NOT a formal certification—but it can be used to complement additional training. It can also be used by caregivers, housekeeping, and dietary teams, or any staff at independent living, HCBS, adult day, PACE, affordable housing, or other settings, as well as by family caregivers at home.

Staff at LeadingAge members can access the course at no cost, and we just extended the offer so it's valid through April 17. [Use code COVIDCERTNOW at check-out.](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

CMS Call on COVID-19 with Nursing Homes

Please join the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for a call on COVID-19 with Nursing Homes tomorrow, Wednesday, April 8th at 1:30 PM PT. CMS leadership will provide updates on the agency's latest guidance and will be joined by leaders in the field interested in sharing best practices with their peers. The call will be recorded if you are unable to join.

Conference lines are limited, so we highly encourage you to join via audio webcast, either on your computer or smartphone web browser. You are welcome to share this invitation with your colleagues.

Wednesday, April 8th from 1:30 – 2:00 PM PT

Attendee Dial-In: 833-614-0820

Conference ID: 6798274

Web Link [here](#).

From LeadingAge Centers

The LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston is sharing research studies and research-based articles focusing on how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting older adults and the people who care for them. Check out their [brief summaries of the latest data and analysis](#), including these recently posted articles:

- [Why is COVID-19 So Lethal for Elders?](#)
- [How Congress Can Address Social Isolation in a Pandemic](#)
- [Protecting the Mental Health of Workers](#)