



**MEMBER BRIEFING:  
LTC RFA, Modified Testing Rule, PBJ Deadline, Presidents Payroll Tax Relief  
August 12, 2020**

**OF SPECIAL NOTE**

**APD Continues Need to Build LTC Capacity to Serve Positive COVID-19 Individuals**

APD continues to need interested nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities with the capacity to serve COVID-19 positive individuals requiring long term care services in the Portland and Salem metro areas. To do so, interested providers can obtain a Request for Application (RFA) [here](#) and RFA attachments [here](#). In the RFA, the provider proposes what they could do and what compensation they would need. No rate is established by the State. Per Mike McCormick, Interim APD Director, "our greatest need is Memory Care capacity in the Valley. Not only do these facilities represent good public health policy, but they are also an incredible resource for providers when COVID enters their building." Interested providers are also encouraged to contact Mike at [Mike.R.MCCORMICK@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:Mike.R.MCCORMICK@dhsosha.state.or.us) if they have any questions.

**STATE NEWS**

**Special Session Ends Maintaining Essential Programs in DHS/OHA**

Monday's special legislative session to balance the state's budget ended maintaining essential programs in the Department of Human Services and Oregon Health Authority due to increased federal Medicaid resources. Provider rate increases that were approved in the 2019 session were also continued along with Oregon Project Independence services for both seniors and younger persons living with disabilities.

**APD Modifies Testing Rule for LTC Facilities**

Yesterday, Adult and People with Disabilities (APD) issued [NF-20-113 Provider Alert](#) that transmitted an amended emergency rule related to testing in nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities. The amended rule [OAR 411-060](#):

- Modifies the definition of "Associated Staff" to only include individuals providing direct care, environmental services and food services via a contractual relationship with the facility. **This definition was narrowed to avoid confusion, ensure timely access to services and ensure limited testing capacity is used to maximum effectiveness.**
- Removes all references to prior authorization of testing providers.
- Clarifies that private rooms/quarantining should be used for new admissions to the extent the facility's capacity/census permits private rooms to be used.

APD will reimburse associated staff testing costs that occurred under the previous, more expansive definition of associated staff for testing occurring through August 14, 2020. Testing

costs will continue to be reimbursed under the narrowed definition of associated staff from August 15 through September 30. Previous administrator alerts on this topic are located [here](#).

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **How Employers Should Implement the President's Payroll Tax Relief for Employees**

The stalemate in Congress over supplemental unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, and President Trump's most recent proclamations of relief, leave employers caught in the middle. A key proponent of the President's initiatives includes a Social Security tax holiday for employees, but that effort is causing chaos not only because it may not be enforceable but also because it tries to defer but does not (and cannot) eliminate the tax obligation. Accordingly, it leaves employers both confused about how to implement and vulnerable to penalties if they get it wrong. For now, the best approach is to do nothing. [Learn more](#) about what the Memorandum does and doesn't do.

### **Letter to Congress from LeadingAge National**

Today LeadingAge national president Katie Sloan sent a [letter to all congressional offices](#) stating our disappointment with Congress' decision to leave town without negotiating a deal on critical coronavirus relief legislation. Furthermore, the Executive Orders issued by President Trump responding to expired coronavirus provisions do not address these essential needs. LeadingAge members are stepping up to act for older adults every day. We are imploring Congress to step up and act as well. LeadingAge national is continuing their advocacy efforts with outreach to the Administration, Congressional leaders and the media to highlight these concerns and ensure that we must provide relief now. They will be sending an action alert to all LeadingAge members on Thursdays calling on them to send a message demanding that Congress return and provide the critical relief that is needed.

### **PBJ Staffing Data Submissions - IMPORTANT DEADLINE REMINDER FOR NURSING HOMES**

PBJ staffing data submissions are due by this Friday, August 14. PBJ data submissions were previously suspended under an 1135 waiver; however, this waiver was terminated effective June 25. Data for calendar quarter 2 must be submitted by Friday and will be updated in Nursing Home Compare on the next regularly scheduled update in October 2020. CMS is also encouraging providers to submit data for calendar quarter 1, though this data is not required. [Here's](#) an article spelling these requirements out.

### **NHSN Updates**

LeadingAge National reported recently on the NHSN (CDC reporting) updates that together will provide a lot more details on testing and barriers to testing which nursing homes face. [Here's](#) an article on the updates.

## **LEADINGAGE OREGON NEWS**

### **LeadingAge Oregon E-Lists**

LeadingAge Oregon's website contains E-lists, also known as listservs, which give staff at LeadingAge Oregon member organizations the ability to communicate directly with other members via e-mail. We have developed 19 different E-lists in the hope that one or more may

be exactly what you're looking for. These E-lists are developed so that you can inquire, share and learn from your peers, so please sign-up for as many as you feel will benefit you.

To sign up for all E-lists that are applicable to you, go to [www.leadingageoregon.org](http://www.leadingageoregon.org) and after logging in, click on Member Tools/My Profile/My Features/E-Lists.

Please note that you must log in to My Profile using your LeadingAge Oregon user name and password. If you don't have a user name and password, please contact the LeadingAge Oregon office at 503.684.3788. [See here for more instructions on using the E-lists.](#)

### **Leadership Academy Applications Deadline Extended**

Now, more than ever, we believe organizations and their teams desire opportunities to develop and strengthen their leadership skills. This year's program will bring added value and benefit to participants and their organizations, LeadingAge Oregon and aging services in Oregon for years to come!

Beginning in 2020/2021 we are now offering two tracks for team members who are at different places along their leadership journey. Participants can be from any department or division, as diversity is a core value of the program.

- **Level I** one for mid-level managers with at least 1 year of supervisory experience or those who have been identified as strong emerging leaders and
- **Level II** for managers with more than 3 years of leadership experience for leaders who have been through Leadership Academy in the past, or who have been in a leadership role and are ready to further strengthen their skills.

*See the full information packet with Enrollment Form/Application [here](#).*

[Testimonials from 19-20 Academy Participants and Mentors](#)  
[Steve Hopkins on the Value of Virtual Leadership Development](#)

Applications and resumes are due **August 22, 2020**.