



**CORONAVIRUS MEMBER BRIEFING:
Families First, Special Committees/Task Forces, Expanded Childcare
Benefits, COVID-19 Implementation Guide, Reporting Suspected Cases, HUD
National Call and CDC Strategies/Update**

March 19, 2020

Access all LeadingAge Oregon Updates and Other Resources on our [website](#) that is updated regularly.

We're all dealing with COVID-19 news that changes almost hourly. We are having regular communication with the state on evolving policies, seeking clarification, and assistance in obtaining provider relief. We communicate daily with national LeadingAge, other state LeadingAge partner associations and the state to work collaboratively on getting needed information and resources to members. Please let us know any questions you have, what you need (be as specific as possible, PPE, workforce, other relief), and the situation in your community so we can work with state partners to best serve you.

LeadingAge Oregon Weekly COVID-19 Check-In

LeadingAge Oregon has changed the time and day of our weekly COVID-19 check-in. The Zoom meeting will now be on Fridays at 3:30. We will cover the latest information we have as well as offer an opportunity to talk with other communities and share ideas on topics related to COVID-19. Here is the information for the Zoom meeting for Friday, March 20.

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://zoom.us/j/508828421>

Dial in: 1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 508 828 421

STATE NEWS

Governor's Task Force COVID-19 Response

Governor Brown charged the Oregon Health Authority and the Office of Emergency Management to convene a joint task force to prepare for the expected surge of patients requiring hospitalization for COVID-19 treatment. LeadingAge Oregon CEO, Ruth Gulyas, was appointed to the Long Term Care (LTC) Facilities and Vulnerable Populations Task Force, one of the 3 interrelated task forces advising the joint task force. The charge of the LTC work force is to advise the joint task on matters of development and appropriate use of needed non-hospital level of care treatment and settings options, healthcare outreach for homeless individuals and other especially vulnerable populations and COVID-19 management within correctional facilities during the outbreak. It is estimated Oregon will need 1000 hospital beds and 400 ICU beds when the cases requiring hospitalization is expected to surge in the next few weeks.

Interim Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

The [Special Joint Committee on COVID-19 Response](#) met for the first time yesterday to (1) Identify actions that will support economic relief and household stability for low-income workers and small businesses impacted by the pandemic; (2) Produce budget and policy recommendations for timely legislative action and (3) Monitor Oregon's ongoing public health response, and if needed, make recommendations for further legislative action.

The committee heard presentations from the Governor's Office, the Business and Labor Community and the Oregon Health Authority in addition to receiving written testimony. LeadingAge Oregon submitted [written testimony](#) summarizing the needs of the long term care community related to enhanced funding, the supply of Personal Protection Equipment and workforce issues. The Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to begin prioritizing needs and possible actions the State might take to mitigate those needs. Meetings of the committee, agendas, and materials may be viewed on the [committee's page](#) and clicking on the meeting date on the right side of the page.

COVID-19 Implementation Guide

DHS has issued a [Provider Alert NF-20-70](#) and an [implementation guide](#) guide to assist facilities in implementing the new visitation guidelines issued to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The guide helps to clarify who essential individuals are, including interviewing prospective employees, outside medical professionals, vendors, and State staff. The 'end of life stages' definition can be difficult, and you are encouraged to reach out to your Policy Analyst for guidance if needed in specific instances.

DHS to be notified any time COVID-19 status changes for any individual in the facility. The department must be notified immediately when a resident or employee is referred to the local health authority for testing. The department must also be notified immediately when the results of that test are received, whether positive or negative.

Expanded Childcare Benefits

To support Oregon's working families dealing with the spread of COVID-19, Governor Brown directed the Department of Human Services and the Early Learning Division to make changes to childcare benefits. The changes, which are effective immediately, include:

- Eliminating co-pays for eligible families.
- Providing access to more families by increasing the income limit from 185 percent of the federal poverty level (\$4,040 per month for a family of four) to 250 percent of the federal poverty level or 85 percent of the state median income, whichever is higher for the family size (\$5,899 per month for a family of four).
- Ensuring more certainty for providers. Childcare providers are able to continue to receive payments from DHS, even if children are unable to attend or if they have to temporarily shut down during the state of emergency.

NATIONAL NEWS

Families First COVID-19 Response Act: What Does it Mean for Aging Services Providers?

Yesterday evening, March 18th, President Trump signed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. National LeadingAge has provided an [overview](#) of the new provisions related to paid sick

leave and FMLA leave. The bill applies to businesses with fewer than 500 employees and excludes certain health care workers (MDs, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical social workers). Employers with under 50 employees can ask for an exemption where complying would jeopardize the business as a going concern.

HUD Holds National COVID-19 Call

The first national call of HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing regarding COVID-19 had significantly more interest than phone capacity. To catch LeadingAge members up on the content of the March 18 call, Linda Couch wrote [this summary](#) of the speakers' main points. This article references and mostly reiterates information in HUD's [March 16 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document, which HUD is updating every couple of days.

CDC Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE

In view of a potential shortage, the CDC has developed strategies to optimize the supply of personal protection equipment (PPE). Obtain strategies for:

- [Face masks](#)
- [Isolation gowns](#)
- [Eye protection](#)

CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update and Information for Long-term Care Facilities

On March 17, the CDC held a clinician outreach and communication activity (COCA) webinar for long-term care facilities including SNF, LTC, and AL related to infection prevention and control guidance, steps facilities should be taking, management and treatment of COVID-19 and available resources. The recording of the call and the webinar slides are available at this [link](#). See a summary of the webinar [here](#).

TAKE A BREAK

LIVE Streaming Dueling Pianos Show

If you need a break for your residents, staff or family, Jeff & Rhiannon who provided entertainment at our Annual Conference a couple of years ago, will be Live Streaming a dueling pianos show tomorrow, Friday, 3/20! Visit their Facebook page, facebook.com/jeffandrhiannon, at 6:00pm PDT.