



## 03.24.20. COVID CALL NOTES

### Allison Ciborowski

Thank you for the work your organizations are doing. This will be a 30 minute call today, as we are hosting a webinar starting at 12:30. The first hour of the webinar will be focused on infection prevention and control and COVID-19 updates from Nikki Cracknell, Medical Affairs Liaison at Medline. The second hour will be on utilizing your 5 Star Reports, with Sue Chenail of LeadingAge NY. These webinars will take place on this line, so you don't need to do anything to join if you'd like to listen in to part or all of the webinar. These webinars will be recorded if you want to come back and listen later.

Reminder – Weekly COVID-19 Call each Tuesday at noon, Weekly COVID-19 call for housing providers each Wednesday at 9am. Daily Digest will be sent with highlights of updates from the day. We know people have increasingly sophisticated firewalls, please contact us if you are not receiving our Daily Digest emails.

LeadingAge Maryland continues to be in touch with the Department of Health, Department of Aging. Please keep reaching out with your questions, and to let us know practical needs. As you heard yesterday, Governor Hogan has enforced even stricter measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19. All non-essential businesses are closed, and Marylanders are urged to stay home as much as possible.

Governor Hogan outlined detailed steps he is taking to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and address PPE shortages, including:

- Reopening closed hospitals, floors and wings to add 6,000 beds
- Setting up a field hospital in the Baltimore convention center and adjacent Hilton Hotel. The Maryland National Guard will be setting this up and FEMA will be delivering 250 hospital bed packages
- Drive thru COVID-19 testing at vehicle emissions centers will be set up as soon as testing kits, PPE and lab capacity become available. Other testing centers are being set up.
- Healthcare providers are required to prioritize tests for healthcare providers and hospital patients and will cease elective procedures
- Urging the manufacture and delivery of PPE and needed supplies including establishing an incentive fund.

Reminder, please lock up your PPE, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, etc. There are reports of these items being stolen.

Child Care - LeadingAge Maryland joined Catholic Charities and a half dozen other organizations in a letter to the Maryland Superintendent of Schools requesting that she make child care for essential employees in our fields a high priority.

Conversations with AARP Foundation, who is looking to support social connection during this time. If there are practical things your organization is doing to promote connection, or ideas you have, please let us know.

### **Jill Schumann**

Other updates from LeadingAge Maryland

LeadingAge, AHCA, NCAL and Argentum sent a letter to the Postmaster General regarding issues with mail delivery

HFAM, LifeSpan and MHA were on a call together yesterday. Hospitals are very concerned about a likely surge in COVID-related admissions and they need post-acute providers to: take folks sicker and quicker; and take more complex cases. Discussion included:

- What are the barriers and how can hospitals help?
- Work together re: relief funding, payment authorizations, patient information exchange, clinical specialty telehealth, etc.
- Use new transfer form to direct admit from ED
- Work with payer issues with MHA and hospital partners
- Need to know bed capacity on a daily basis – types, tec.

It will likely be difficult NOT to have COVID patients in SNFs. Therefore:

- Should look at trying to consolidate space now to create dedicated wings
- Need guidance re: COVID-treated patients who don't need med-surg level of care
- Need PPE

LeadingAge Maryland, HFAM and LifeSpan are working together on the following:

- Medicaid payment, rates, determinations, etc.
- Staffing – abbreviated training, specifics of cross-state and expired licenses, virtual training, issues related to background checks, CNA tests, etc.
- New Maryland programs loans, grants, funds, are out members eligible for and how to apply
- Consideration of how to direct admit from ED to AL

### **LeadingAge National**

#### **Janine Finck-Boyle**

Visit the LeadingAge national COVID-19 website regularly – [leadingage.org/coronavirus](https://leadingage.org/coronavirus)

Going back to live calls each day at 3:30. Go to the LeadingAge website to register. The calls are also recorded and posted.

CMS updates –

- Survey suspension – for next 3 weeks, identified types of providers will receive only prioritized surveys. These are: Immediate Jeopardies that are facility-reported or complaints at the IJ level, revisits for removal of prior IJs; targeted infection control surveys. Detail about what is suspended is in the CMS 28 page memo. Tools at the end of the document include self-assessment and also guidance to surveyors. LeadingAge will be writing some simplified explanations and there is an analysis posted to the website.

### **Juliana Bilowich**

CDC interim guidance issued over the weekend addresses how to handle visitors on site – posted at [leadingage.org/coronavirus](https://leadingage.org/coronavirus)

- HUD has indicated that individual properties set their own policies. CDC suggests limiting visitors and HUD suggests not completely restricting visitors.
- CDC interim guidance on how to handle a confirmed case on site in housing
- How to coordinate with local health officials – especially with a cluster of cases (3 cases within 72 hours; how to communicate while following privacy requirements.

### **Questions**

Are there resources for assisted living?

– on [LeadingAge.org/coronavirus](https://leadingage.org/coronavirus) page items are targeted to specific settings, including assisted living

What practical challenges are members facing?

Supplies- face masks, thermometers, other PPE

Comment – One organization has had a great response from local health departments when they needed them, but seem to be ignored by the rest of the bureaucracies