COVID-19
UPDATES & INFORMATION

A Message from MCOA

As we are all dealing with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic together, Maine Council on Aging is devoted to sharing the latest information and resources available to ensure the health and safety of older Mainers. We have created a webpage devoted to sharing resources for both older Mainers and for aging services providers. We will continue to update these pages regularly with information and resources as they become available!

Check out the new webpage here: http://mainecouncilonaging.org/covid-19_resources/

If you have resource page from your organization you’d like to share, please let us know.

In addition, we will be sending out regular email updates related to COVID-19 with the latest information, resources and best practices from our partners, members, and more so that we can help plan and respond together. We’re also suspending normal membership requirements and are allowing anyone to participate in our weekly Member & Partner Covid-19 conference call. This call is intended to identify new or on-going challenges, share real-time information about new resources and activities and hear how the rest of the system is responding.

Sign up at the link below to be added to the mailing list to join these events: http://mainecouncilonaging.org/add_to_mailing_list/

Message from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Update for Rural Partners, Stakeholders, and Communities on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response

Please join the CDC for an update on the COVID-19 response. Registration is required.
Dr. Butler will share guidance with partners, public health practitioners, healthcare providers, and others working to protect the health of rural communities. He will describe what CDC knows at this point and what CDC is doing in response to this outbreak. We will also have time for questions and answers. Please email eocevent337@cdc.gov to submit questions in advance and indicate that questions are for the 3/23 call. This event will be recorded. Questions not answered during it may be sent to ruralhealth@cdc.gov.

REGISTER HERE

"Unemployment Insurance & Covid-19" Webinar
Hosted by Maine AFL-CIO and Maine Equal Justice

There have been important changes made to the Unemployment Insurance program that can help Maine workers during this public health crisis.

Department of Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman is available to help us understand these changes during an online meeting this Thursday, March 19 at 10 am.

Click here for more information and registration link

Governor Mills Takes Further Steps to Respond to COVID-19, Protect Health and Safety of Maine People
March 18, 2020

Governor prohibits dine-in service at bars and restaurants; bans gatherings more than 10 people & signs emergency legislation to respond to COVID-19
Read the full bulletin here.

Upcoming Webinars

Med Tac Bystander Rescue Care Webinar
Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM ET: Learn more and register for a webinar about the most common scenarios facing families, professional first responders, volunteer medical and security responders in our communities.

Update for Rural Partners & Communities
Monday, March 23, 2020 at 1:00pm ET: Dr. Butler will share guidance with partners, public health practitioners, healthcare providers, and others working to protect the health of rural communities. Register for the webinar.

In Case You Missed It

Maine Calling 3/18/20 at 1:00 pm
Gov. Janet Mills discusses the state’s response to the coronavirus, including the declaration of civil emergency and ever-tightening precautions.
Drive-up testing for COVID-19 now in Stonington, Castine
People with symptoms of the COVID-19 coronavirus can now get tested at the Northern Light Health Center in Castine and the Northern Light Island Medical Center in Stonington.

Click here for more information

Stores designate shopping time for seniors vulnerable amid coronavirus: Safeway, Whole Foods, Target and more

Read the article here

MaineHealth Announces New Visitor Restrictions at Multiple Locations and has suspended all unnecessary appointments. Please click here for more information.

Agency continues to provide services, despite concerns over Covid 19.

Aroostook Agency of Aging: Watch the news clip here

Effective March 17, 2020, Social Security Offices Will Only Offer Phone Service (Online Services Remain Available)

All local Social Security offices will be closed to the public for in-person service starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020. This decision protects the population we serve—older Americans and people with underlying medical conditions—and our employees during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. However, we are still able to provide critical services.

Read more of the Press Release Here

Maine DHHS Acts to Ensure Access to Health Care, Food, and Basic Necessities While Protecting the Health of the Public and Employees. Read the Press Release Here.

Announcement from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

The Trump Administration today [3/17/20] announced expanded Medicare telehealth coverage that will enable beneficiaries to receive a wider range of healthcare services from their doctors without having to travel to a healthcare facility. Beginning on March 6, 2020, Medicare—administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)—will temporarily pay clinicians to provide telehealth services for beneficiaries residing across the entire country.

To read the Fact Sheet on this announcement visit this link.

To read the Frequently Asked Questions on this announcement visit this link.
This guidance, and earlier CMS actions in response to the COVID-19 virus, are part of the ongoing White House Task Force efforts. To keep up with the important work the Task Force is doing in response to COVID-19 click here www.coronavirus.gov. For information specific to CMS, please visit the Current Emergencies Website.

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Important Updates & Announcements from Maine's Area Agencies on Aging:

**Aroostook Agency on Aging:**
Aroostook Agency on Aging changes service delivery in response to coronavirus threat [Click here for more information](https://example.com).

**Eastern Area Agency on Aging:**
Important update as of 3/17/2020. [Click here to read.](https://example.com).

**SeniorsPlus:**
SeniorsPlus announces closings in response to Coronavirus. [Click here to read.](https://example.com).

**Southern Maine Agency on Aging:**
Coronavirus (COVID-19): SMAA Operations Updates & What Older Adults Need to Know. [Click here for more information.](https://example.com).

**Spectrum Generations:**
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Announcement [Click here for more information.](https://example.com).