MCOA Members & Friends,

It’s been a long, tiring week of information overload, uncertainty, and stress. Each and every Maine service provider, healthcare provider, volunteer community group, municipality, and emergency services organization have had to shut down or modify operations, implement staff protection procedures, determine what programs are essential and need to be modified and which need to be suspended, all while juggling your normal day-to-day operations. So many of you have done this while being keenly focused on how you can help older Mainers access the information, supports, and services they need to stay safe and healthy during this crisis. You have all been heroes this week and we appreciate all that you’ve done.

As promised, we will host a MCOA Member, Partner & Friend check-in meeting tomorrow, Friday, March 20th, from 8:00-9:00. The purpose of the call is to hear from MCOA aging services providers, healthcare providers, housing professionals, municipal leaders and others about emerging issues and challenges that have arisen since our call on Monday and any solutions that have been implemented. Members from our Congressional delegation, legislature, state officials, law enforcement, and funders will join us. It’s critical that we all hear what’s going on together and how we can be most helpful to those of you on the front lines.

We’re entering some unchartered territory on this call as we’ve invited folks from outside our membership to join us in receiving updates and listening in on the call. We’ll figure out how to make this work but this will be a new learning experience for us all. Here’s the meeting information. We’ve moved to the Zoom platform to achieve better quality in the call. Please remember to mute your phone if you are not speaking. Please use chat box to ask questions. If we can’t get to all the questions, we’ll answer some by email.

After tomorrow’s calls, we’ll start a regular Tuesday morning call from 8-9 for those
who want to join us to share updates. We’ll circulate that conference call information on Monday. Talk with you tomorrow.

Jess

Jessica L. Maurer, Esq.
Executive Director
Maine Council on Aging

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**Coronavirus/Covid-19 Resources from Maine DHHS Office of Aging & Disabilities Services**

Please visit the Maine DHHS/OADS site for updated information/resources on the following:

**Personal Protective Equipment and Public Health System Materials** [Order Form](#)

**Developmental Disability and Brain Injury Programs:**
- [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Resource sheet](#) for Agencies and Others Providing Supports to Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), Autism and Brain Injury

**Aging and Long Term Services and Supports Programs:**
- [Frequently Asked Questions and Resources](#) Regarding COVID-19 for Agencies and Others Providing Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to Older Persons and Adults with Physical Disabilities
- [Information on Expansion of Telephonic Medical Eligibility Assessments](#) (3/19/20)
- [Information on Home Delivered Meals Volunteer Background Checks](#) (3/17/20)

[Click here to read more](#)

**Governor Mills Presses Federal Government to Provide Maine With More Personal Protective Equipment and Testing Supplies**

March 19, 2020

[Click here to read more](#)

**Social Security & Coronavirus**

[Click here to view](#) the Social Security Administration webpage with most recent information about services and resources

**CDC Update:**

**Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness? Older Adults**

[Click here to read](#)

**Alzheimer's Association**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): Tips for Dementia Caregivers**

[Click here for more information](#)

**Good Shepherd Food Bank**

**Food Pantry Closing and Changes**

[Click Here for up to date food site distribution schedules](#)
SeniorsPlus
Updated Press Release 3/17/20 REVISED:

*Please click here to view most recent updates.*

Shaw's Supermarkets
Help Us Help Our Neighbors. To help ensure that the most at-risk members of our community who must leave home to obtain groceries are taken care of, we are reserving 7am to 9am on Tuesdays and Thursdays for them.

*Read the full announcement here*

"Unemployment Insurance & Covid-19" Webinar held today, 3/19/20, with Commissioner Laura Fortman about Maine's response to the coronavirus as it pertains to unemployment insurance. The webinar was hosted by Maine AFL-CIO and Maine Equal Justice. *View the recorded video here.*

YCCAC Transportation Program Helps Community During Coronavirus Pandemic. *Read more here.*

Maine lab starts breeding mice for coronavirus vaccine
*Read article here.*

Maine CDC plans to keep hiring while stretching to fight the coronavirus
*Read article here*

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**In Case You Missed It**

Governor Mills Takes Further Steps to Respond to COVID-19, Protect Health and Safety of Maine People
March 18, 2020
*Read the full bulletin here.*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Webinars
*Registration is required (CDC Recommends participants to access it in a group format, if possible) Click links below to register.*

March 23, 1:00pm (ET)
*REGISTER: COVID-19 Update for Rural Partners (CDC)*

March 24, 2:00pm (ET)
*REGISTER: Underlying Medical Conditions and People at Higher Risk for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (CDC)*