COVID-19
UPDATES & INFORMATION
4/2/20

Updates, Information & Resources

Rate Update for Personal Care Services
Maine Department of Health & Human Services Bulletin

Please see the bulletin released today, 4/2, by Maine DHHS. As announced on 3/30, rates will be increased for personal care workers who care for older adults and disabled residents at home. The rates will be effective April 1, 2020.

Click here to read more

Remote Monitoring Solution for COVID-19
Healthcentric Advisors developed an online remote-monitoring solution for COVID-19 that monitors, manages, and communicates with patients under investigation or confirmed positive for the virus. The system provides daily, text outreach to patients from their care teams to track symptoms of COVID-19 and be alerted—in real-time—if symptoms worsen. This tool allows patients to safely recover at home, reducing exposure. It protects care teams by allowing them to remotely manage patients so they can prioritize the critical needs of the sickest patients.

Coastal Medical, one of the largest practices in Southern New England has been using this digital solution as our test site. Their VP of Clinical Operations and Pharmacy said "Coastal Medical has leveraged the CMAssist platform to track patients affected by the coronavirus and monitor symptoms via text messaging in real-time. This technology allows us to prioritize the most critical patient needs first. CMAssist provides a highly effective mechanism for population health management that is imperative during a health crisis by rapidly identifying the most vulnerable patients."

See it Live: On Friday, April 3, 2 PM we are hosting a webinar to demonstration how practices can use the technology to manage their COVID-19 patients safely. Click here to register for the Webinar
New England Grassroots Environment Fund: COVID19 rapid response funding

Available for groups that focus on mutual aid and have no formal tax status (no 501(c)3 or fiscal sponsor in place). These grassroots groups of neighbors are responding to local needs, are innovative and resourceful and don't have access to short-term funding alternatives.

The Grassroots Fund is making direct grants to these efforts to provide financial resources. Please help us share this program to mutual aid groups in your area. Grants are up to $1,000 and we will work to get funding out as quickly as possible. Contact Tess Beem (tess@grassrootsfund.org) with any questions.

Click here to learn more

IRS: Coronavirus Tax Relief
Click here to read the updated information from the IRS

How to safely handle groceries during the pandemic
Click here to read the article

Jackson Laboratory: EXPEDITING COVID-19 RESEARCH
Click here to read more

Get Your Home Ready: Detailed Planning Guidance
Click here to read recommendations from the CDC

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living During the COVID-19 Emergency Webinar Presented by Justice In Aging
When: Friday, April 3, 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. PT/2:15 – 3:00 p.m. ET
The current outbreak of COVID-19 presents particular danger to residents of nursing facilities and other long-term care facilities. This webinar, Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living During the COVID-19 Emergency, will cover recent policy changes by federal and state governments, and discuss the challenges and choices faced by residents.
Click here for more information and to register

The Economic Development Council of Maine is hosting a zoom meeting with Heather Johnson, Commissioner of DECD for the latest update on COVID-19 response. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 3 at 12:00
Please join to learn about what DECD is doing and participate in a Q&A session.
Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/180352423
Meeting ID: 180 352 423
One tap mobile
+16468769923,,180352423# US (New York)
+13126266799,,180352423# US (Chicago)

Northern New England Response to Covid-19
Webinar Hosted by Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging
Tuesday, April 14th, 2020
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM

On Tuesday, April 14 from 12:00 to 1:30, the Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging will host a special Covid-19 webinar to discuss challenges and promising practices to support the health of older people in northern New England. Learn how the different shelter-in-place orders effect the work in age-friendly organizations and lifelong communities. We will also share some emerging practices developing to meet the needs in communities across northern New England. Come prepared to share your experiences and to ask questions. We will be joined by state legislators, age-friendly organizations, and State Units on Aging.

Click here to register

Local Community Volunteer Efforts

Check out this volunteer effort!

Mobilize Katahdin
Mobilize Katahdin is a coalition of partners in the Katahdin region dedicated to organizing mutual aid efforts and connecting people to accurate information and local resources. Click here to read the article

Check out the Mobilize Katahdin website here

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Maine Council on Aging is working to share any community efforts & available resources across Maine and have started sharing on our website for easy reference. Check out the link below & share within your networks to ensure that service providers of all kinds can more easily find the services older people need during this crisis. This page is updated daily as we hear from more communities - please check back often!

MCOA Local Community Volunteer Efforts Listing

Are you a part of a local volunteer effort in your community and do not see it listed at the webpage above? Please let us know about it by completing the brief survey here.

In Case You Missed It

Governor Mills Issues Stay Healthy at Home Mandate
Click here to read more

Essential Business Operations Definitions

Stuck at Home (Together)

Initiative of the Foundation for Art & Healing
To address emotional distress caused by the unprecedented public health demands to establish physical isolation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation for Art & Healing (FAH) (www.artandhealing.org) is launching a new initiative: Stuck at Home (Together). This program will deploy a variety of evidence-based creative expression and mindfulness-oriented activities to enable, enhance and sustain social connectedness while reducing the stress and anxiety that many are experiencing.
MCOA Meetings
Please add these to your calendars with the connection details below.

**Standing MCOA Member & Partner Call – every Tuesday morning at 8:00**
Join Zoom Meeting (video encouraged): [https://zoom.us/j/974743577](https://zoom.us/j/974743577)
Meeting ID: 974 743 577
Conference Call Line: 1-646-558-8656 passcode: 974743577#

**Standing MCOA/LeadingAge Housing Call – for RSCs and Housing Managers – every Friday at 10:15**
Join Zoom Meeting (video encouraged): [https://zoom.us/j/992754142](https://zoom.us/j/992754142)
Meeting ID: 992 754 142
Conference Call Line: 1-646-558-8656 passcode: 992754142# US