



COVID-19 UPDATES & INFORMATION

4/21/20

Updates, Information & Resources

Meals On Wheels Eligibility

The Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) have been given guidance that loosens up the criteria for eligibility for Meals On Wheels. **This means that individuals who are age 60 and above who are practicing social distancing are eligible for home delivered meals.**

Additionally, AAA's have some flexible funds which will allow us to serve younger people affected by COVID 19. Please refer to your local AAA.

[Aroostook Agency on Aging](#)
[Eastern Area Agency on Aging](#)
[SeniorsPlus](#)
[Southern Maine Agency on Aging](#)
[Spectrum Generations](#)

Maine DHHS: PNMI Temporary Rate Increases

[Click here to read the bulletin](#)

ACL Announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency

[Click here to read the bulletin](#)

Stimulus Information & Wednesday, April 22, Noon Deadline for Social Security Beneficiaries with Children

The CARES Act provides economic impact payments of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples and up to \$500 for each qualifying child.

Eligible Social Security (including SSDI and SSI), Veterans Administration, and Railroad Retirement beneficiaries who don't normally file taxes will automatically receive payments of \$1,200.

Any of these beneficiaries who have qualifying children under age 17 and did not file 2018 or 2019 taxes must use the [Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info](#) tool on IRS.gov to claim the \$500 payment per child.

- SSA retirement, SSA survivor, SSDI, and RRB beneficiaries must submit this information by noon ET Wednesday, April 22.
- For those who miss the April 22 deadline, their automatic payment will be \$1,200 and, by law, the additional \$500 per eligible child would be paid in association with a return filed for tax year 2020.
- SSI and VA beneficiaries have some additional time but should enter this information as soon as possible.

Note that economic impact payments will not be counted as income for SSI recipients, and the payments are excluded from resources for 12 months.

Urgent Warning on KN95 Masks from Funeral Directors via Maine Medical Examiner's office. Maine CDC will issue guidance this week on KN95's due to local failure rate. April 16, 2020

In recent weeks, due to shortages of N95 respirators, the FDA approved the use of KN95 and other alternative respirators. However, officials have discovered that counterfeit KN95 respirators have flooded the marketplace. Additionally, some KN95 respirators that were pulled for random testing failed to meet performance standards.

You should discontinue the use of KN95 and other alternative respirators until you can confirm their authenticity against the FDA's list of approved alternatives to N95 respirators. You should also verify their performance through fit-testing.

The authenticity of a respirator can be verified by checking the [FDA's emergency use authorization list](#) (this document is being updated regularly with respirators that meet the FDA's eligibility criteria)

[You may also wish to check NIOSH's website for additional information about approved and unapproved respirators and masks](#)(this page contains an extensive list of known counterfeit respirators and masks)

[Learn more about the FDA's eligibility criteria for alternatives to N95 respirators](#)

COVID-19 Coronavirus Resource Page for Manufacturers

[Click here to read more](#)

University of Maine: Innovative partnership for COVID-19 response: Hand Sanitizer

[Click here to read more](#)

Quality Interactions: *Cultural Competency and COVID-19* Cross-cultural communication during a health crisis

[Click here to read more](#)

Maine Calling

Listen to Rick Erb of Maine Health Care Association and Commissioner Lambrew talk about the outbreak of Covid-19 in nursing care facilities

[Click here to listen to the recording](#)

Androscoggin Home Healthcare + Hospice: Coping Through Hard Times

[Click here to read more](#)

Read for U-ExCEL Workout of the Week #5?

[Workout of the Week #5](#)

[Dice workout that goes along with Day 3 under "Way to Mix up Your Weekly Routine."](#)

Below are full videos for each class. This week for Strength & Balance/Circuit/Fusion and Core Dynamic you will need a towel (bath or beach towel) for part of your equipment. The towel will create some resistance that will act as an alternative to tubes and bands (what we use in group classes). If you are not comfortable using a towel for some of the exercises, you can use weights/household items or do the exercises as bodyweight only.

[Strength & Balance, Circuit, Fusion](#)

[Sit & Fit](#)

[Core Dynamics](#)

The increasing demands upon food banks

[Click here to read the article](#)

Idexx to be second company in Maine producing COVID-19 test kits

[Click here to read the article](#)

Temporary program provides rent assistance to County residents during pandemic

[Click here to read the article](#)

Financial institutions offer loan payment deferrals during coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic

[Click here to read the article](#)

Maine CDC: Text Updates

COVID-19 text updates are available through 211 Maine
Text MECOVID to 898-211 to subscribe

Advocacy Opportunities

Urge Congress to protect and enhance resources for vulnerable populations

Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) are launching an advocacy campaign to advance several key federal priorities through the U.S. Congress.

The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging health systems worldwide and raising many important issues, especially for those living with Alzheimer's and other dementia. As Congress acts to pass legislation addressing our nation's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic they have the ability to protect and enhance resources for critical populations.

[Click here to learn more & link to take action](#)

Contact Congress Today for Aging Services Relief Congress is Developing Next COVID-19 Relief Package Now

Congress has the opportunity to provide critical funding and resources for aging services providers throughout the country. Urge Congress to include these LeadingAge priorities in the next coronavirus legislation today!

[Click here to learn more & link to take action](#)

(The link above has been corrected - we apologize for the inconvenience!)

Funding Opportunities

Elmina B. Sewell Foundation: RAPID RESPONSE FUND GRANTS

The Rapid Response Fund (RRF) is a flexible, rolling application grant opportunity that supports emergency and/or time-sensitive needs of organizations and communities whose work aligns with EBSF's mission: to support work in Maine to improve the well-being of people, animals and the environment while fostering relationships that strive for **social equity** and community resilience.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Webinar 4/22: Medicare COVID-19 Coverage Updates

[Register for the webinar on Wednesday, April 22 at 3:00 - 4:30 PM ET.](#)

Join the National Paralysis Resource Center (operated by the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation) for a webinar that explores Medicare issues and addresses questions about:

1. An overview of changes to Medicare coverage during the COVID-19 emergency, including expansions in telehealth coverage and remote patient monitoring, removal of physician referral requirements, and more flexibility in obtaining prescription medications,
2. The Medicare process to obtain durable medical equipment (DME), during and outside a public health emergency:
 - Medicare rules and requirements;
 - Case studies to illustrate the process and tips to ensure safe, efficient, and effective success; and
 - Policy discussions to explore DME that Medicare currently does not cover, but should cover in the future.

The presentation includes 60 minutes for presentation, 30 minutes for questions and further community discussion.

Presenters:

- Attorneys David Lipschutz and Kathy Holt, Center for Medicare Advocacy Associate Directors

Ensuring Continuity of HCBS During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Thursday, April 23 at 3:00 - 5:00 pm ET.

ACL and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are hosting a monthly Webinar series to assist states and stakeholders in developing high quality programs to address social determinants of health (SDOH) and provider capacity building in home- and community-based services (HCBS). The series will focus on best practices in a number of key areas, including person-centered planning, guardianship reform, aligning HCBS policy with SDOH, housing, employment, community inclusion, transportation, and more.

[Register for the webinar](#)

Social Media Tools For Lifelong Communities Webinar

Hosted by UMaine Center on Aging

April 30th, 9-10AM

[Click here for more information and to register](#)

Understanding Cognitive Loss: Basics for Family Caregivers

Webinar Hosted by Southern Maine Agency on Aging

Thursday, 4/30/20 from 1-3pm

[Click here for more information & registration](#)

UMaine Health Connection Chats

Wednesdays from 11am – 12 Noon

[Click here to read more](#)

Local Community Volunteer Efforts

Check out this initiative!

Pop-Up Pantry Distributes Food to 40 Families in Somerville

The Jefferson Area Community Food Pantry traveled north to host a pop-up pantry at South Somerville Baptist Church on Thursday, April 16.

[Click here to read the article](#)

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

Beautiful Question Postcards

LeadingAge is partnering with TimeSlips and Harper Collins to offer Beautiful Question postcards to aging services providers for free. Postcards prompt residents and clients to consider questions like “What makes you laugh?” or “What gift would you give the next generation?” Cards can be delivered with meals, mailed to family, or even displayed in your community.

[See samples and order your cards here.](#)

Janet Mills pauses some evictions, creates relief fund as virus makes it

harder to pay rent

[Click here to read more](#)

Looking for more resources and information?

Click the button below to access more information and resources from MCOA and past daily email updates.

**CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION &
RESOURCES**

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