COVID-19
UPDATES & INFORMATION

4/22/20

A Message from MCOA

The Maine Council on Aging, in partnership with LeadingAge ME & NH and the Maine Resident Services Coordinators Association, hosts a weekly meeting for congregate housing coordinators and managers to address concerns related to a potential outbreak of Covid-19 in congregate housing settings. On Friday, April 17th, Dr. Letourneau, Dr. Mills and folks from Emergency Management joined the call and provided lots of wonderful information.

The link to view the April 17th meeting and past recordings can be found on our Provider Resource page under Congregate Housing/Resident Service Coordination Issues
Click here to find the recording

Remember to join us for our weekly calls. This week we hope to have folks from the CDC on the call and we’ll of course have federal updates from LeadingAge as well as updates on the new CARES Act. We’ll also be joined by Becky Hayes Boober of the US Census to help us understand why it’s important to ensure residents of your buildings are being counted and how things have changed with the Census due to Covid-19.

We hope to "see" you there!

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
Meeting ID: 992 754 142
Password: 535837
Conference Call Line: 1-646-558-8656 passcode: 992754142#
"FrontLine WarmLine" Launches to Help Maine’s Health Care Workers and First Responders Manage Emotional Toll of COVID-19

Click here to read the Press Release

National Domestic Workers Alliance: NATIONAL COVID-READY CAREGIVER CERTIFICATION

Click here to sign up for the free training


Click here to read more

University of Maine: Hand Sanitizer

We are producing ethanol-based hand sanitizer using an FDA-approved formulation for hospital use only at this time. Our supply is limited, but we are ramping up production in collaboration with other Maine partners. If your hospital needs hand sanitizer, please follow the steps below.

1. Go through WebEOC or contact your County Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to enter your request.
2. If you do not know your organization’s rep or believe you do not have one, please contact your county emergency management office. A list of county-level offices can be found here. If you do have web-based EOC access, you may enter your request yourself here.
3. Request only what you need immediately and include your daily consumption rate, when submitting your request through WebEOC.
4. We are filling requests on an urgent need basis. Please ask only for what you need immediately and do not stockpile. We ask for daily consumption rate so that we can scale up our production to better meet your needs and provide for regular replenishment.
5. Identify a single point of contact for your organization and provide that contact information via email to: UMSC19request@maine.edu.
6. Please make the subject line: Primary contact for [Insert Organization Name]. In the email, please provide the name, email and phone number to best contact.
7. We are creating a master list of key contacts at hospitals and patient facilities.

If you have any questions about this process, please email us at UMSC19request@maine.edu with a subject line identifying your organization and your issue.

If you work for a medical facility other than a hospital and need hand sanitizer, please send an email to UMSC19request@maine.edu. While we can only fill hospital orders at the moment, we are cataloging other requests.

SAGEConnect

Join SAGE as we match LGBT elders with community members and allies who want to connect during this time of crisis. Share your day. Share your stories. Let’s be stronger, together, with SAGEConnect.

Click here to read more

National Digital Equity Center: Does It Seem Like Everyone Is Zooming Except You?

In this time of social distancing, you have probably heard the word "Zoom" a lot lately. Town meetings, church services, and family get-togethers are all happening with a video-conference tool called "Zoom". If you or someone you know would like to participate in
events such as these or one of our many classes, but lack the confidence to try Zoom, please don't hesitate to contact us at (207) 259-5010 or email us at classes@digitalequitycenter.org. We can set you up with a free one-hour class session on a topic that interests you and make sure you have no problem joining us. 

Check out their online classes including Getting News and Information Online, Online Games for 55+, Connecting Through Basic Technology, and many more! 

Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness: How to stay connected while intentionally isolated 

AARP: The COVID-19 Imperative: Keep Family Caregivers and Long-Term Care Facility Residents Connected 

Dr. Dora Anne Mills: Are nursing homes canaries in the coal mines? 

Older adults are facing dual public health emergencies 

Lewiston nonprofit developing temporary ‘wellness’ shelter at armory 

‘At the mercy of the food supply’: Southern Midcoast food assistance services, families struggling during pandemic 

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.

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!
Funding Opportunities

Click here to read more

Maine Philanthropy Center: COVID-19 Response Funds
Click here to read more

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!

St. George
St. George Community Development's Community Cupboard Food Box is providing food deliveries and pick-ups for folks in the St. George area.
Click here to learn more
Find them on Facebook here

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

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

Maine DHHS: PNMI Temporary Rate Increases
Click here to read the bulletin

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