Updates, Information & Resources

MCOA COVID-19 Housing Call w/LeadingAge & Maine Resident Service Coordinators Association
This morning, the Maine Council on Aging, LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire, and the Maine Resident Services Association held their weekly conversation about responding to the needs and safety of older residents living in independent congregate housing during COVID-19. Today's meeting included some very useful information.

MCOA Members can access this recorded call by clicking here

The MCOA has created a closed Facebook page so that Resident Service Coordinators and housing managers can share information and resources real time during this crisis. If you’d like to join, click this link

Framing COVID-19
Topic #4: The power of how during the pandemic

This moment demands an effective public health response. We need accurate data to predict and prevent severe outbreaks. We need to use evidence to inform action and conduct research to develop solutions. And we need to help the public stay informed and engaged.

But the phrase "public health response" is not well understood. Most people equate health with health care. They picture doctors and nurses acting after people are sick or injured. This limits support for public health: the work that happens before people get sick - and work that happens at a wide scale.

Here are three ways we can make a powerful case for the public health work that is always essential - but especially vital for addressing COVID-19.

Click here to read more
Update from Social Security Administration

We updated our Representative Payee Program offering an option to beneficiaries and applicants for Social Security benefits to provide Advance Designation. On April 13, 2018, the Strengthening Protections for Social Security Beneficiaries Act of 2018 became law. One of the provisions of the law, Section 201, allows beneficiaries and claimants to designate preferred individual(s) to serve as payee should the need arise, and requires SSA to select the designated individual with certain exemptions.

The implementation of Advance Designation adds new protections to the representative payee program for both the public and Social Security. Advance Designation allows all capable Title II, Title VIII, and Title XVI adult and emancipated minor applicants and beneficiaries to designate a representative payee in advance when applying for benefits or with their my Social Security account.

Advance Designation provides beneficiaries more control over their financial future, reduces instances of elder abuse, and will help SSA find qualified representative payee candidates more quickly. Learn more about this update [here](#).

Please share this information with your members and constituents. For questions, contact us at OEA.Net.Post@ssa.gov.

Special Coding Advice from the AMA during COVID-19 public health emergency – specifically related to telehealth
[Click here to read more](#)

Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During the COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency
The site below includes a list of some vendors that represent that they provide HIPAA-compliant video communication products and that they will enter into a HIPAA BAA.
[Click here to read more](#)

Maine Department of Labor Announces Alphabetical Call-in Schedule for Unemployment Benefits
[Click here to read more](#)

Safety Advice If You Must Visit the Grocery Store
[Click here to read the article](#)

Covid-19 Related Scam/Fraud Information from MEMA & Maine State Police
During this COVID-19 pandemic, scammers, and price gougers are devising numerous methods for defrauding people. Scammers are aggressively creating fake addresses for their physical locations, fake social media accounts, and fake email addresses. Claims of available medical supplies or services are made and when monies are transacted the goods and services never arrive. Remember, any COVID-19 vaccine, cure, or treatment, will be made through main stream media outlets and not to calls to people’s homes.
[Click here to read the full notice from MEMA & Maine State Police](#)

If you believe you’ve been scammed, file a complaint with the Maine Attorney
General at consumer.mediation@Maine.gov or FederalTradeCommission@FTC.gov, or call 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4621. Law enforcement agencies around the world work together to stop scammers and provide consumers with the information they need to avoid fraud, so you can also call local law enforcement.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

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

Coping with COVID-19: Mindfulness Tools for Geriatric Providers
Thursday, April 16th at 12-1:30pm

Please join us for this free AgingMe Interdisciplinary Mindfulness Seminar Hosted by faculty in the UMaine’s Psychology, Social Work & Nursing Programs Seminar will be led by Rebecca MacAulay, PhD, a licensed clinical psychologist

Click here for more information and to register

Local Community Volunteer Efforts

Check out this initiative!

Feeling Isolated? Our H.E.L.P. Volunteers can Help with a Few Friendly Calls!
Rangeley Health and Wellness H.E.L.P. Volunteers have newly-expanded their “Neighbors Calling Neighbors” service (in response to the coronavirus crisis) and are providing daily check in calls to folks in the Rangeley Region.

Read the full article 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
In Case You Missed It

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

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

Rate Update for Personal Care Services
Maine Department of Health & Human Services Bulletin
Please see the bulletin released on 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

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