COVID-19 UPDATES & INFORMATION
5/19/20

Updates, Information & Resources

Governor Mills, Maine Congressional Delegation Convene Call on COVID-19 All pledge to work together in support of more Federal support for State and local governments
Click here to read the bulletin

Maine Eliminates Testing Prioritization; Expands Testing to Anyone Suspected of Having COVID-19
Click here to read the bulletin

Senator King to Hold Tele-Town Hall, Answer Questions from Maine People
Tuesday, May 19th, 2020 at 3:20 p.m., U.S. Senator Angus King (I-Maine) will hold a tele-town hall, and encourages Maine people to call in with questions related to the federal government's response to the coronavirus pandemic.
Click here to read more

CMS Releases Phased Reopening Guidance for Nursing Homes
Click here to read more

OSHA: COVID-19 Guidance for Nursing Home and Long-Term Care Facility Workers
Click here to read more

Senate Special Aging Committee Hearing: Caring for Seniors Amid the COVID-19 Crisis
The Senate Special Committee on Aging is holding a televised hearing Thursday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m., entitled “Caring for Seniors Amid the COVID-19 Crisis”. View the hearing at
CDC Important Information About Your Cloth Face Coverings

Survey Study Seeking Respondents:
Food Purchasing and Access During COVID-19
The University of New England is partnering with Johns Hopkins University and the University of New Hampshire to conduct a survey to understand how people are responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as it relates to food purchasing and food access. This information will be used to inform policymakers and coronavirus response as it relates to ensuring residents can access the food they need. Any adult living in Maine aged 18 years or over is eligible to take the survey. For those interested, there will be a drawing for respondents to receive one of twenty $20 Amazon gift cards. The survey will be open through May 31.
Click here to take the survey

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Alzheimer's Association Virtual Person-Centered Dementia Care
The curriculum is a train-the-trainer model created to prepare attendees already familiar with Alzheimer's and dementia care, to train direct care staff in a wide range of residential and community based settings. The 7-hour virtual training teaches attendees how to deliver the 13-hour curriculum based on the person-centered model of Habilitation Therapy. There are scholarships available that are grant supported by AgingME GWEP. We would like to make these available to as many of our long term care and assisted living communities as possible.
Click here to view the flyer
Click here for more information & to register

Free Training for Direct Care Workers on PPE
This grant funded PPE training module was developed specifically for direct care workers. Find the Direct Care training in the yellow box at the link below.
Click here to read more

Alzheimer's Association: COVID-19 Caring Conversations
COVID-19 Caring Conversations (for people with memory loss and their caregivers)
COVID-19 Caring Conversations For Professionals
Click here for more information and to register

UMaine Health Connection Chats
Announcing Second Round of Sessions May-June
Click here to read about the upcoming chats

Morally Distressing Events in Healthcare Workers During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak
Sonya Norman, PhD
Wednesday, May 20 at 2 p.m. ET
Although it is not typical for healthcare workers to experience significant distress from difficult situations at work, unprecedented contexts, such as a pandemic, may cause some healthcare workers to experience morally distressing events. Morally distressing events refer to experiences that contradict personal or shared values or expectations. Feelings resulting from these experiences can include guilt, shame, distress or intrusive thoughts or images, anger, reduced readiness and, if the person experiences betrayal, reduced confidence in leaders or the organization. This webinar will help mental health and other healthcare providers understand how working in the current pandemic might result in experiences of morally distressing events for some healthcare workers. Strategies that workers, coworkers, and leaders can use to reduce the potential for morally distressing events and strategies that mental health care providers can use to reduce the distress associated with morally distressing events will be discussed.

Click here to register

Webinar 5/20: Locating Community-Based Resources

Register for the webinar on Wednesday, May 20, at 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET.
The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Paralysis Resource Center (PRC) is offering a free webinar on the services of the Aging and Disability Networks including n4a and the Eldercare Locator.
People with spinal cord injury and paralysis are likely to need community-based services and supports offered through the aging and disability networks available in nearly every community in the U.S. This webinar includes an overview of the services provided by the aging services network that are currently used by people with spinal cord injury (health/wellness programs, caregiver support, in-home assistance, case management, transportation, home modification and legal services). Also covered is the role of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and the Eldercare Locator in connecting people with critical resources to live independently in their own communities.

Click here for more information

Webinar: Supporting Grandfamilies in a Pandemic

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
5/21/2020 2:00 PM EDT
Join Generations United and n4a for a conversation on how the Aging Network can best support older adults raising grandchildren or other young relatives during this tumultuous time. The needs of grandfamilies are often great and always complicated even in good times. Add online learning, stay-at-home precautions and reduced access to services and supplies, and you have a population in need of extra help, now! Generations United’s experts will highlight the trends in these families’ current and emerging needs and share ideas for aging organizations to increase support to these older adults. A grandparent currently raising her grandchildren will share first-hand experience, and other grandfamily and AAA experts will join the conversation—as will you! In this COVID-19 era, sharing of emerging practices is critical, and we hope to capture local responses during the webinar.

Click here to learn more and register

Ageism is Bad for Your Health

Tuesday, May 26th, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Hosted by Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging
On Tuesday, May 26, from 12:00 to 1:30, we will focus on ageism, the negative impacts on our health and how we can change the conversation moving forward. During the recent COVID-19 response we saw a marked increase in ageist attitudes—from naming coronavirus the “Boomer Buster” to cartoons asking people to choose grandma or the economy. Join us to learn more about changing the conversation on aging in our current climate and how we move forward together with effective messaging. We will be joined by re-framing experts from New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and from the national initiative.

Presenters:
- Patricia D’Antonio, Vice President, Professional Affairs, The Gerontological Society of America, Program Director, Reframing Aging Initiative
- Kelly Laflamme, Program Director, Endowment for Health
- Keliane Totten, Chief Officer, Community Engagement, Concord Regional VNA
- Jennifer Rabalais, Co-Director, Center on Aging and Community Living, Project Director, Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire
Understanding Social Isolation Series Part 1: What it is, Why it Matters and How it’s Measured
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
AARP Foundation, with the American Society on Aging, explores the health impacts of social isolation among older adults, and looks at current recommendations and solutions to prevent and mitigate its negative effects. This timely series comes at an unprecedented moment in America, as the novel coronavirus thrusts millions of older adults into greater physical isolation from family, friends and neighbors. As these events unfold, it will be more important than ever for healthcare professionals and those in the aging services sector to understand the importance of social connections and strategies to support healthy social engagement and inclusion. Register for this two-part web seminar to learn about the latest research, screening and measurement methods, recommendations and best practices.

Understanding Social Isolation Series Part 2: Interventions and Best Practices in Healthcare and the Community
Thursday, May 28, 2020
AARP Foundation, with the American Society on Aging, explores the health impacts of social isolation among older adults, and looks at the current recommendations and solutions to prevent and mitigate its negative effects. This timely series comes at an unprecedented moment in America, as the novel coronavirus thrusts millions of older adults into greater physical isolation from family, friends and neighbors. As these events unfold, it will be more important than ever for healthcare professionals and those in the aging services sector to understand the importance of social connections and strategies to support healthy social engagement and inclusion. Register for this two-part web seminar to learn about the latest research, screening and measurement methods, recommendations and best practices.

COVID-19 Caring Conversations for Professionals
For Long-Term Care Providers from All Care Settings
Taking Care of Your Mental Health and Well Being: Warning Signs of Trauma, Anxiety and Depression
May 27, 2020, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
This session, led by Dr. Brent Forester, will identify key components of mental health and ways to care for yourself during these challenging times of COVID-19. Due to significant losses direct care staff are experiencing on the front line, it is important to recognize symptoms of trauma, anxiety and depression. Everyone experiences trauma differently, based on their own life experiences. By recognizing symptoms, professionals can identify warning signs of clinical depression, significant anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder that may warrant further evaluation by a medical professional. Attendees will have the option to submit questions in advance or during the presentation.

What Challenges are People with Chronic Disease Facing in the New COVID-19 Environment?
May 28, 2020 03:00 PM
People with chronic conditions have always faced considerable challenges to manage their conditions. In an age of COVID-19, they face many new challenges, including not getting the routine care they need to monitor and manage their chronic disease. In this month’s General Member Webinar, Dr. Betsy Thompson, Director of the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at CDC and a Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service will discuss some of these challenges we should understand and look at.
Establish a Volunteer led Social Wellness Call Program: Train the Trainer Webinar
May 29 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
The Motion Picture and Television Fund is sharing their social connectivity train the trainer program with senior center professionals. Staff who will be training volunteers to make wellness calls should sign up for this free training. This free training will provide guidance for starting a program, recruiting, marketing, policies and procedures, rules and regulations and reporting. MPTF will ask for feedback from those deciding to use the tools.

Rural Primary Care Tools and Resources for Managing Suicidal Ideation During COVID-19
Jun 2, 2020 02:00 PM in Central Time
Mental health professionals are predicting an increase in suicidal ideation as a result of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Part of the explanation has been tied to financial stress, role balance, and isolation. Individuals in rural communities may be experiencing these risks for suicidal ideations more acutely given rural people already disproportionately struggle with isolation and poverty. In rural communities primary care providers are an integral member of the mental health workforce and can play a pivotal role in identifying and managing suicidal ideation in their patients.

Dementia Workforce Development: Two Models to Prepare for the Future (National Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) Webinar – June 16, 2020)
An introduction to critical issues in the dementia workforce will be presented. The CATCH-ON program at Rush University Medical Center is addressing workforce needs in unique ways through its Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program. Dr. Erin Emery-Tiburcio will discuss various aspects of CATCH-ON, including the development of Dementia Friendly Communities in Illinois and resources for building your local dementia workforce. A second dementia workforce program example will be provided by Ms. Katelyn Marschall. Ms. Marschall will provide an overview of the Wisconsin Dementia Care Specialist Program and how the Dementia Care Specialist Program impacts people with dementia and their families. Practical resources for dementia professionals developed for use in community-based settings will also be provided.

Local Community Volunteer Efforts

Check out this initiative!

Falmouth, Maine
The Town of Falmouth has established a Senior Resource Hotline managed by the Falmouth Parks and Community Programs Office. Seniors, caregivers, and family members of seniors may call 207-699-5302 Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm and Friday 8am-Noon for assistance with the following non-medical needs. Check out the Fact Sheet and other resources available at the links below.

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.*

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**Funding Opportunities**

**USDA Rural Development: Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants**
*Click here to read more*

**Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**
Pioneering Ideas: Exploring the Future to Build a Culture of Health
*Click here to read more*

**NCOA: COVID-19 Community Response Fund**
*Click here to read more*

**Maine Association of Nonprofits: Information on COVID-19 for Maine Nonprofits, Financial Relief for Nonprofit Businesses and Employers**
*Click here to read more*

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

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**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Resources**

**UMaine: Maine-made cloth face coverings and other consumer products**
*Click here to read more*

**Sewing Masks for Maine**
Free of Charge for Healthcare Providers
*Mask Request Form: Maine Healthcare Providers*

**Mid Coast Pop Up PPE Factory**
*Find them on Facebook Here*

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**In Case You Missed It**

**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) Examples from the Field**

Building on the grab-and-go model of food distribution that many n4a members have adopted,
n4a is sharing examples of how AAAs and Title VI programs are adjusting existing and launching new programs and services to continue to safely serve older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Click here to read more

National Council on Aging: Community-Based Organizations Struggle to Meet Shifting Needs of Older Adults During COVID-19

In April 2020, the National Council on Aging (NCOA), a trusted national leader working to ensure that every person can age well, surveyed 1,003 community-based organizations to determine the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to serve older adults.

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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