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**Dear Member:**

### **Reminder to Check Maine CDC Positivity Rates Regularly**

As previously reported, Maine DHHS has released updated guidance on surveillance testing and community engagement in nursing homes and assisted housing communities that went into effect this week. The metrics being used to determine positivity rates in Maine now align with the federal standards. Positivity rates, which dictate testing frequency and community engagement, are broken down as high (>10), moderate (5-9.9%) or low (up to 4.9%) positivity rate. At this time, community engagement activities continue to also be based on conditions in the facility and in the county. Positivity rates are typically updated on Thursday afternoons. Please make a practice of checking at [Maine CDC data](#).

### **Maine CDC Releases HAN on COVID-19 Quarantine and Testing in light of Vaccinations**

On February 2, 2021 the Maine CDC released updated guidance specific to COVID-19 infection rates and rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations that spoke to quarantine of individuals who are identified as close contacts of a COVID-19 case, and use of antigen testing. See <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/newhan.shtml>.

In this document, there is also updated guidance specific to whether or not there is need for quarantine follow a close contact exposure IF the individual exposed has already completed the FULL course of COVID vaccine. MHCA is still working to identify this specific guidance as it relates to our member homes. AT THIS TIME, this state guidance DOES NOT apply to our nursing homes. According to AHCA, we are awaiting guidance from federal CMS on actions following full vaccine as it pertains to quarantine and isolation, but this federal guidance has not been released. UNTIL THIS HAPPENS homes should continue to follow the CMS recommendations following exposure

### **HHS Announces Updates to Provider Relief Fund FAQs**

HHS recently [updated](#) the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) FAQs to clarify Ownership Structures and Financial Relationships between "parent" and "subsidiary" entities that received PRF funding (General and Targeted). Please see updated highlights [here](#). Additionally, one Nursing Home (SNF) FAQ was released. However, it did not indicate when December payments would be paid.

### **OADS Updates Re-Opening Guidance for Adult Day Services**

OADS issued new guidance today that impacts adult day services for the elderly, as well as other provider types. The guidance includes instruction to follow the [14 Day Positivity Rate Map](#). If a County is Low (green) or Moderate (yellow), providers may decide if they want to resume in-person services. It reminds providers that vaccination does NOT change the need to practice COVID-19 safety precautions. It also includes a [Group Services Risk/Benefit Guide](#) to help individuals, their families, and other service team members weigh the pros and cons of returning to in person services, and make the decision that is best for each individual. The newly updated document can be found on the OADS website [Guidance 2-2-2021](#).

Sincerely,

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