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Dear Member:

Today's Family Visitation Webinar: Update

We are saddened and disappointed by this afternoon's webinar broadcast. Today's broadcast was hacked by an unknown party which resulted in the inability for the sponsors to continue the broadcast. Regardless, the information being shared was, and continues to be, vitally important to our members and the families/residents they serve. Coincidentally, federal CDC released new guidelines relaxing activities for fully vaccinated residents in LTC settings that may impact current Maine state guidance as well as federal CMS guidance. In light of this, we will plan to pre-record a session similar to what we had attempted to share today that will review the MOST up to date guidance and plan to release that recording to facilities to share with families and loved ones. In addition, we will take the questions that were submitted and prepare written answers from the panel to provide with that recording. Again, on behalf of the MeCDC, ME DHHS DLC, LTCOP, MHCA and LeadingAge-ME/NH, we apologize for the issues with this broadcast.

Maine Updates Public Health Guidance on Use of Face Coverings in Outdoor Public Settings

Governor Janet Mills announced today that Maine is updating its public health guidance to remove the requirement that people wear face coverings in outdoor settings.

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) recommends that people continue to wear face coverings in outdoor settings where it is difficult to maintain physical distancing. Face coverings are still required for indoor public settings, and there are no changes to Maine's physical distancing requirements at this time. The change, which is effective immediately in Maine, follows updated guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including the use of face coverings in outdoor settings.

Despite having the oldest median age population in the country, Maine, adjusted for population, ranks fourth lowest among states in both the total number of COVID-19 cases and number of deaths from COVID-19, according to the U.S. CDC. Maine has administered more than 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine and is currently second in the nation in the percent of its population that is fully vaccinated, according to the [Bloomberg tracker](#).

Updated Federal CDC and CMS Guidance Released for Fully Vaccinated Residents in LTC

Today, April 27, 2021 federal CDC released guidance revising recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals working and living in healthcare settings. In response CMS has also

revised QSO-20-39 to coincide with these changes in recommendations. In conversation with the Me DHHS DLC and MeCDC these changes have not been fully reviewed. We do anticipate there will be changes to the Maine community engagement table guidance as well as Maine congregate housing guidance. In the meantime, we urge members to closely review the update [CDC](#) and [CMS guidance](#) documents.

Johnson & Johnson Vaccines Back in Action

Last week, U.S. health officials lifted the 11-day pause on Johnson & Johnson vaccinations following a recommendation by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). ACIP is a group of medical and public health experts that develop recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States.

Panelists said the benefits of the single-dose COVID-19 shot outweigh a rare risk of blood clots. They further recommended that specific warning should be given to younger women about the risk so they can decide if they'd rather choose another vaccine. The CDC and Food and Drug Administration agreed.

Sincerely,

Nadine L. Grosso
Vice President and Director of Communications
ngrosso@mehca.org