Dear Member:

New National Goal to Have 75 Percent of NH Staff Vaccinated by June 30

With evidence COVID-19 vaccinations are helping to drive down infections in nursing homes and other long term care settings, the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and LeadingAge are upping the ante by announcing a new nationwide goal of getting 75 percent of the approximately 1.5 million nursing home staff vaccinated by June 30.

“With COVID-19 vaccinations being distributed across long term care facilities over the past two months, we have already seen a decline in cases in nursing homes, indicating that the vaccines are working,” said Mark Parkinson, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of AHCA. “Many of our staff continue to be excited about the vaccines and the hope they represent, but some caregivers still have questions,” he said. “We are continuing to inform our staff about the credibility and safety of the vaccines through our #GetVaccinated, vaccine and we hope this goal will further encourage more of our staff members to get the vaccine.”

According to a preliminary analysis, COVID cases decreased at a faster rate among nursing homes that had completed their first vaccine clinic, compared to those nearby that had not yet administered the vaccine in the first month of the vaccine rollout. Recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) data show cases and deaths in nursing homes are declining rapidly, which indicates the vaccines are reducing the spread of the virus, according to AHCA.

Voices for Vaccination – What LTC Employees are Saying About the COVID-19 Vaccine

MHCA’s Voices for Vaccination video features messages from stakeholders and testimonials from LTC employees statewide who share their thoughts and decision-making process around vaccination. MHCA thanks our members and colleagues for taking the time to talk about this important topic. We encourage you to share these messages of hope far and wide. Watch here: MHCA Vaccine PSA Feb2021 - YouTube

March 3rd Updated Office Hours: Vaccine Distribution in LTC

AHCA/NCAL will be hosting office hours on Wednesday, March 3 at 3 PM Eastern to answer your questions about how to continue to access vaccinations. The CDC recently posted new guidance on how LTC facilities should ensure ongoing access to the COVID-19 vaccine. This guidance provides three options for LTC facilities (skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other congregate living setting) to continue to receive the vaccine. The office hours will provide an overview of this guidance and provide attendees an opportunity to ask questions. We will also include an update on the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Please note that registration is limited, but a recording will be available within 24 hours and open to everyone.

Outstanding Provider Relief Fund (PRF) and Quality Incentive Payment (QIP) Issues

AHCA/NCAL is working to address outstanding (and not yet resolved) Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 2 and 3 and Quality Incentive Payment (QIP) issues provider members may be facing. They have created this brief survey for members with outstanding federal funding issues to fill out by Monday, March 1st. AHCA/NCAL will work with the Hill and new Biden Administration
to attempt to resolve the issues submitted. This does not guarantee funding for the provider submitting the issue, but they will raise it to the appropriate decision makers if warranted. Please complete all survey fields as noted.

Please contact AHCA/NCAL’s Senior Director of NFP & Constituent Services, Dana Ritchie, at dritchie@ahca.org with any questions.

**Pioneer Network Offers One-Day Symposium: Envisioning the Future: Exploring Lessons Learned**

Pioneer Network is offering a one-day symposium titled, Envisioning the Future: Exploring Lessons Learned. This virtual event is designed to provide valuable learning within a 6-hour window through four general sessions, followed by an opportunity to gather together to join one of four interactive forums hosted by the general session speakers, designed to explore the topics more deeply.

When: Wednesday, March 24 2021, 11:00 AM - 4:45 PM EST

- Adopting a We CAN Attitude: What Each COVID Action Necessitates
  - Dr. Stefan Gravenstein, M.D.
- Lessons Learned from Life During a Pandemic: Looking Beyond Resilience
  - Dr. Susan Wehry, M.D.
- Valuing CNAs: It’s More Than Finding a Way to Get a Hot Pizza to the Night Shift!
  - Lori Porter, Co-Founder & CEO, NAHCA and Jeff Jerebker, Sage, Co-Founder Live Oak Project
- The Art of Compassionate Leadership
  - Mary Tellis-Nayak, RN, MSN, MPH

Registration:$99.00 Individual with CEUs included for NHA, Nurses, Activity Professionals, and Certified Dementia Practitioners. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

**New IHI COVID-19 Resources**

- The [Institute for HealthCare Improvement](#) (IHI) recently created various resources on COVID-19 including:
  - **COVID-19: Care of Older Adults**- A list of national resources that provides updated information on COVID-19 and older adults.
  - **Staffing During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Guide for Nursing Home Leaders** - Provides suggestions for addressing staff shortages.
  - **COVID-19 Vaccine Education: A Guide for Conversations With Nursing Home Team Members** - Helps support conversations about vaccine hesitancy with nursing home staff and includes a [slide presentation](#).

The site also includes information on age-friendly health systems, policy updates, and resources for Directors of Nursing and Administrators. These resources are also useful in other settings including assisted living and providers supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD).

Sincerely,

Nadine L. Grosso
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