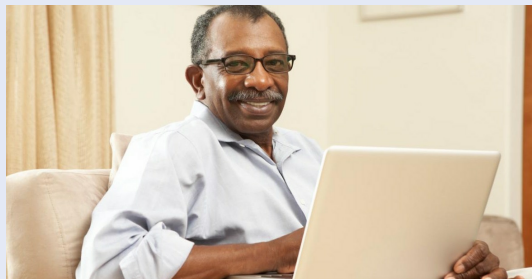


April 14, 2021

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

The CDC and the FDA are recommending a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine to allow researchers at both agencies time to better understand a small number of reported cases of women developing a rare clotting disorder after receiving the vaccine. The Public Health Communications Collaborative offers some helpful messaging for practitioners [here](#).

The COVID-19 Vaccine for Homebound Older Adults: Challenges and Solutions webinar highlighted strategies from the federal and local level to provide access to individuals that are homebound. A recording of the webinar along with slides and transcript is available [here](#) on TFAH.org. Please feel free to share these resources with your network. Additional information on this issue is also featured in a [blog post by the Milbank Memorial Fund](#).

TFAH is continuing efforts to identify and disseminate best practices and policy recommendations to ensure COVID-19 vaccine access for older adults and people with disabilities who need to receive the vaccine at home. Opportunities to engage on this issue include weekly “Huddle” calls to share just-in-time information and provide a platform for discussion. Register [here](#) for the April huddles. Calls will be held on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm ET and Fridays at 12:30 pm ET.

Thank you to everyone who has shared their thoughts and ideas. [Please continue to share any best practices and policy solutions that are being implemented to ensure vaccine access to this vulnerable population.](#)

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Monthly Trainings

With the growth in the older adult population in every state in the country, the availability of accessible and affordable housing is becoming a big challenge. Housing is one of the social determinants of health, as well as one of the AARP’s eight domains of livability. TFAH’s April AFPHS training session will focus on the challenges in access to housing for older adults and highlight public health’s role in improving that access.

You can register now for this training session using the link below.

Addressing the Digital Divide – April 15, 2021, 3:00 pm ET

The COVID pandemic has shined a light on the crucial need for connectivity and the challenges that many communities and individuals face in securing access and paying for it. The Administration for Community Living and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are hosting a webinar to discuss FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit program (EBB). EBB helps connect people with jobs, healthcare services and virtual classrooms to improve the ability of households to pay for internet service. The webinar will address how EBB works and cover eligibility and enrollment. Register [here](#).

Getting the Vaccine to the Most Vulnerable – April 16, 2021, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ET. Hosted by the National Minority Quality Forum, this webinar will explore vaccine distribution at America's hospitals. Panelists will share how they have been able to get the vaccine to community members, lessons learned from the pandemic and future plans. Register [here](#).

Information, Data, and Tools to Support COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance in Underserved Communities – April 16, 2021, 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm ET. Hosted by the American Public Health Association, the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, MDB Inc., and The Security and Sustainability Forum, this webinar will highlight HHS tools, data, and approaches to raise vaccination rates in underserved communities. Panelists include presenters from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Office of Minority Health in the Department of Health and Human Services. Register [here](#).

COVID Vaccination & Infection Prevention for Retirement and Independent Living Communities – Apr 19, 2021, 12:00 pm ET. Hosted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this session will provide information on COVID-19 vaccination of older adults and updates to infection prevention in the context of vaccination; share information from retirement and independent living communities about their challenges and strategies for managing COVID in the context of vaccination; and provide a forum for discussing COVID-19 challenges in retirement/independent living communities. Register [here](#).

Prioritizing Equity in Public Health Leadership Summit – April 21, 2021, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm ET. Hosted by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, this session is designed to inspire public health leaders, partners, and stakeholders to create innovative policy and practice solutions to reduce structural racism and eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. The summit will feature keynote presentations from national thought leaders and highlight real-world case examples with application to current public health challenges. Register [here](#).

4th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium – May 6, 2021, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm ET. Hosted by the National Council on Aging, U.S. Administration for Community Living, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, this symposium will include sessions that focus on a diverse array of topics addressing the most pressing older adult mental health needs. Registration is free and will open in March. More information [here](#).

Funding Announcement - National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved Communities, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities.

Funded through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, this grant opportunity will provide grants to public health departments to improve testing and contact tracing capabilities; develop innovative mitigation and prevention resources and services; improve data collection and reporting; build, leverage, and expand infrastructure support; and mobilize partners and collaborators to advance health equity and address social determinants of health as they relate to COVID-19. Funding is expected to be awarded to up to 108 state, local, territorial, and freely associated state health departments, or their bona fide agents. Applications are being accepted for this initiative through April 30, 2021. More information about this funding opportunity can be found [here](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

Considerations for Vaccine Mandates

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) has recently released [a new brief](#) that explains the legal basis for vaccine mandates and the applicable limitations. The KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor indicates that 7% of the population would only get a vaccine if it was required. While no states have a vaccine mandate in place, some employers have instituted vaccine mandates. These employers include health care settings, universities and colleges.

New Infographics Highlight Role of Pharmacists and Community Health Workers with COVID-19 Vaccine Access

New infographics developed by the National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) highlight the value of pharmacists and community health workers. [The pharmacist infographic](#) notes how trusted and accessible pharmacists are, with 90% of Americans living within five miles of a pharmacy. They are also well-positioned to support vaccine distribution and promote equitable access. [The CHW workforce infographic](#) highlights how trusted and diverse CHWs are, and how they can help address determinants of poor health in their communities. They also have the skills to strengthen the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

New CDC Webpages Focused on Adult Day Service Centers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently released two new web pages with guidance for Adult Day Service Centers (ADSC). The [Guidance for Adult Day Services Centers](#) page provides administrators and staff of ADSCs with guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within their facilities. The [Participants at Adult Day Services Centers and Their Caregivers](#) page includes strategies for ADSC participants and their caregivers to protect themselves and their loved ones reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Fact Sheet Highlights Vaccine Access

Several aging and disability groups partnered to develop a guide to making vaccination sites fully accessible to older adults and people with disabilities. The [recommendations included in the fact sheet](#) note that addressing significant gaps in accessibility of vaccine administration sites can aid in increasing vaccination rates in vulnerable populations.

Communities Leverage Partnership with Colleges and Universities to Distribute Vaccines

Temple University's College of Public Health recently collaborated with the Philadelphia Housing Authority to distribute COVID-19 vaccines. Through this [long-standing partnership](#) they were able to vaccinate essential workers and high-risk populations in public housing. They set up clinics led by Temple faculty and full trained nursing student volunteers in public housing sites across Philadelphia.

Additional Resources

New CDC Initiative to Address Racism in Health

Dr. Rochelle Wolensky, the new director of the CDC, recently announced that [a new agency-wide initiative called Racism and Health](#) will refocus the CDC's public health efforts on recognizing, acknowledging, and taking action on the impact of race on people's health. Dr. Wolensky has charged all of the centers and offices under the CDC to develop interventions and health outcomes to address racism in their respective areas.

New Resource Highlights Role of Community Health Workers

The Alzheimer's Association recently released a new resource guide for health departments to learn about community health workers (CHW) and how CHWs can help them address the needs of older adults and the related challenges of dementia. The [Community Health Workers: A Resource for Healthy Aging and Addressing Dementia](#) contains the following sections: training and continuing education about healthy aging for

CHWs, training for CHWs regarding Alzheimer's, foundational resources for and about CHWs, a sample patient navigation pipeline that can integrate CHWs and sample CHW-led interventions with a demonstrated impact on healthy aging in place.

The Role of Area Agencies on Aging in Supporting Older Adults in Rural Communities

[A new data brief from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(n4A\)](#) highlights key data from the 2019 Area Agency on Aging (AAA) National Survey on AAAs serving rural areas. The brief focuses on the differences and similarities between AAAs serving rural and urban areas with regards to their structure, budget, workforce and service provision, including home repair and modification, transportation and evidence-based programs. Some of the key findings are that AAAs in rural areas:

- Are more likely to administer their local State Health Insurance Assistance Program than AAAs serving non-rural areas;
- Are more likely to be part of a council of governments or regional planning and development agency than AAAs serving non-rural areas; and
- Have lower median budgets and fewer median full-time staff than AAAs serving non-rural areas.

New Alzheimer's Website from National Institute on Aging (NIA)

The NIA has launched a [new website](#) designed to educate and support people impacted by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias including people living with dementia, caregivers, health care professionals, researchers, and advocates. Some of the website features include:

- Resources for community and public health workers, health care providers, and researchers
- Information about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
- Tips and resources for caregivers and people living with dementia
- Current clinical trials and studies people can join to help treat and prevent dementia
- Updates on what the federal government is doing to address Alzheimer's and related dementias

Primer for Community-Based Services for Older Adults with Disabilities

Justice in Aging has released a [primer](#) that offers an overview of Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) that includes how different states serve older adults with disabilities in their communities. This resources also addresses population-based inequities in the HCBS system.

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