

March 24, 2021

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

TFAH's Ready or Not Report Finds Gaps in Preparedness

The recently released [*Ready or Not 2021: Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism*](#) report assesses states' readiness for all kinds of health emergencies. States were placed in a high, middle, or low performance tier based on 10 key emergency preparedness indicators. The report found that 20 states and the District of Columbia were high-performers, 15 states placed in the middle preparation tier and 15 states placed in the low preparation tier.

Vaccinating Older Adults Who Are Homebound

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, as well as an upcoming webinar on the topic on March 31. Registration for both the Huddle calls and the webinar are below.

If you are interested in attending **you must sign up separately for both the Wednesday and Friday calls**. Once registered, you will receive a calendar invite for the four-week series. Calls will be held on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm ET and Fridays at 12:30 pm ET.

[March Wednesday Huddle Registration](#)

[March Friday Huddle Registration](#)

Registration for the April Huddles is also open – [April Huddle Registration](#)

[Webinar Registration](#)

Thank you to everyone that 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:

Fast-Forward Documentary

Tonight, March 24th at 10:00 pm ET/9 pm CT, on PBS is the world premiere of *Fast-Forward*, a documentary that follows four millennials and their Baby Boomer parents through an “aging bootcamp” that highlights the role family conversations and planning play in aging successfully. The John A. Hartford Foundation and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation provided funding for the film. Narrated by actress Rosario Dawson, this film explores an intriguing question: “If you knew now what you’ll know then, would you change anything?” Learn more about this documentary [here](#).

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.

April 15th – [Public Health, Housing, and Older Adults](#)

Health and Well-Being Webinar – March 25th, 2021 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET. This Administration for Community Living webinar series includes a look at the Older Americans Act, nutrition, socialization, and health and well-being. Register [here](#).

Respect, Inform, and Trust: Improving COVID-19 Vaccination Acceptance Among Older Adults

– March 25, 2021, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET Hosted by Grantmakers in Aging, this webinar will highlight ways to communicate with older adults about the COVID-19 vaccine. Generations United will highlight the importance of intergenerational communication. In addition, participants will learn about a new multi-partner campaign – the COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project – that seeks to address skepticism, build confidence in the vaccine, and address health inequities. Register [here](#).

Special Event for Health Officials: A Conversation with CDC Director Dr.

Rochelle Walensky – March 30, 2021 1:00 pm ET. The Public Health Communications Collaborative is hosting a conversation with CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, about COVID-19 communications and the important partnerships between the CDC and local health departments. Dr. Walensky will respond to questions submitted in advance. Register [here](#).

Prioritizing Equity in Public Health Leadership Summit – This webinar series from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials 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 concludes with a virtual meeting on April 21st.

- Shifting Power Workshop: Collaborations to Confront the Root Causes of Health Inequities – March 26, 2021, 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm ET. Register [here](#).
- Health Equity Virtual Meeting – April 21st 11:00 am – 5:00 pm ET. Register [here](#).

Getting the Vaccine to Communities That Need It Most – March 30, 2021, 11:00 am ET. Hosted by the Diverse Elders Coalition and the National Hispanic Council on Aging, this webinar will highlight the impact of health inequities on vaccine information distribution and access in various communities. The resources presented in this session will focus on helping older adults, caregivers and others obtain information and access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Register [here](#).

Addressing Health Disparities to Support Aging in Place – April 5th, 2021, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET. Hosted by the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, this webinar will explore strategies to promote healthy aging in place. 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

A Playbook to Increase Access and Equity

Developed by West Health in partnership with the United States of Care, [this playbook](#) provides lessons for health care providers and policymakers based on older adults' interactions with virtual health care during the COVID-19 pandemic. Three care model approaches are included to illustrate how to integrate virtual care within the older adult population.

Vaccinating Homebound Older Adults

Increased attention has been given to vaccinating older adults that are unable to leave their homes to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine. This [Generations United blog](#) highlights the impact of ensuring there are vaccination sites specifically for older adults. Developed by the Gary and Mary West Foundation and West PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly), San Diego County and the city of San Marcos, there is an onsite supervising physician who specializes in geriatric care.

CDC Guidance on Infection Control Measures

The CDC has recently released new healthcare infection prevention and control recommendations. [These recommendations](#) include information for people that have received the COVID-19 vaccine and infection control guidance for nursing homes.

New CMS OMH COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Vulnerable Populations

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) has developed a [COVID-19 Vaccine Resource website](#) to support health care professionals, partners and consumers. The resources on this site focus on supporting racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, sexual and gender minorities, and rural populations.

Examining Factors that Impact Reinfection Rates

[A recent study published by The Lancet](#) notes that older adults are at an increased risk for COVID-19 reinfection. Most adults infected with COVID-19 have about 80% immunity from catching it again for at least six months. Older adults age 65 and older, however, have less than 50% immunity.

Additional Resources

New Action Brief Highlights Caregiving Challenges

CDC has recently released a new action brief that provides an overview of the challenges experienced by caregivers. [Promoting Caregiving Across the Full Community: The Role for Public Health Strategists](#) includes a 360-degree plan to help state, local and tribal public health leaders set priorities and goals to develop services, policies, systems, and environments that effectively support caregiver health.

Guide for Community Health Workers

Created by the Alzheimer's Association and the Association of States and Territorial Health Officials, the [Community Health Workers: A Resource for Healthy Aging and Addressing Dementia resource guide](#) provides health departments, health care systems, the aging network, and human services providers an easy way to find available training, education, frameworks, and tools to build partnerships with community health workers as they serve older adults.

New Lung Cancer Screening Guidelines

The new U.S. Preventative Services Task Force [lung cancer screening recommendations](#) have caused an increase in the number of people that are eligible to begin low-dose CT screening. The recommendations include lowering the age to start screening from 55 to 50 and expanding the high-risk population to include people who smoked the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years, rather than a 30 pack-year history.

Most Common Chronic Conditions among Veterans

[Data published in the National Health Statistics Report](#) reveals that arthritis and hypertension are the two most prevalent chronic conditions among U.S. veterans age 25 and older. This report also notes that veterans age 25 and older have a higher prevalence of multiple chronic conditions than nonveterans.

Taking Three or More Drugs for Dementia Could Accelerate Memory Loss

[A recent study from the Journal of the American Medical Association](#) notes that older adults that take three or more drugs for dementia or related complications could experience accelerated memory loss. One in seven adults with dementia that do not reside in nursing homes take three or more drugs for dementia.

Age-Friendly and Smart Cities

Cities across the world have begun to examine how they can improve the livability of neighborhoods for older adults. Building on the World Health Organization Age-Friendly Cities framework, communities in Australia and Seattle, WA have examined ways to incorporate more technology to develop [Age-Friendly Smart Cities](#). Three factors crucial to establishing smart city solutions include increasing life expectancy, using smart city data that incorporates digital maps that highlight city services, and including older adults in the planning process of designing a smart city.

Cold Temperatures Highlight Challenges with Long-Term Care Facilities

[A recent article from Kaiser Health News](#) noted the challenges many long-term care facilities experienced during the cold temperatures that impacted the state of Texas last month. Approximately 50% of the 1,200 nursing facilities lost power or had burst pipes or water issues, and 23 had to be evacuated. Among the 2,000 assisted living facilities, about 25% had storm-related issues and 47 were evacuated.

Diabetes Screenings for Adults with Obesity

[Draft recommendations the US Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\)](#) encourage health care providers to screen adults age 35 to 70 that are overweight or obese for prediabetes and type 2 diabetes. Based on research conducted by researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Evidence-based Practice Center, USPSTF also recommends referring patients with prediabetes to effective preventive interventions.

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