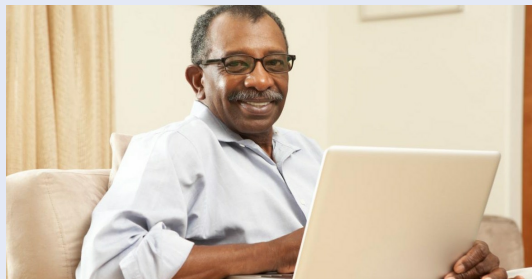


April 29, 2021

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

TFAH's new [Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Initiative \(AFPHS\) online resource portal](#) is now live! The new AFPHS.org site is designed to be a hub for the many programs, recommendations, guidelines, and tool kits developed through the AFPHS initiative and by network partners to promote multi-sector adoption of age-friendly practices. The new website is made possible with funding from The John A. Hartford Foundation.

The site also houses the AFPHS Recognition Program, in which state and local health departments are invited to enroll. Health departments that enroll will receive guidance and technical assistance from TFAH to complete action in 10 areas considered foundational to becoming age-friendly.

Visit the new site regularly for new and timely information, events, and resources.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Monthly Trainings

Ensuring access to the COVID-19 vaccine for those who are homebound remains challenging for most state and local jurisdictions, despite the increase in vaccine supply. To help guide those who are organizing homebound COVID-19 vaccination programs, TFAH developed a [Guide to Innovative Practices](#) that offers details of strategies being implemented across the country. TFAH's next AFPHS training will focus on this Guide and offer additional recommendations on overcoming vaccine hesitancy. The session will take place *Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 3:00 pm ET*. Register [here](#).

Age-Friendly Ecosystem Summit – May 4 -5, 2021. 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ET

Organized by the George Washington University's Center for Aging, Health and Humanities, this summit will provide an opportunity to bring together regional leaders and other multisector parties who are interested in advancing age-friendly initiatives. Building on the work of the 2021 Building a Coordinated Age-Friendly Ecosystem: A Working Discussion events, this meeting provides a space to combine insights to create and promote a unified language and measurement strategy to support a coordinated Age-Friendly Ecosystem. 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](#).

Hesitancy, Equity, and Transparency: Rolling out the COVID-19 Vaccine – *May 6, 2021, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*. Hosted by the Public Health Institute, this webinar will address the role of trust in achieving COVID-19 vaccine equity. Presenters will highlight issues related to building trust and trustworthiness between communities and those bringing vaccinations to the communities; successful strategies for reaching vaccine-hesitant communities; how data can be used to ensure an equitable vaccine response; how vaccine distribution strategies have evolved as supply increases; and what we have learned about how to build stronger and lasting relationships between communities and public health in preparation for the next pandemic or natural disaster. Register [here](#).

Emerging Lessons from COVID Response: Action Towards Equity – *May 19, 2021, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET*. Hosted by the National Network of Public Health Institutes, this session is designed for public health professionals to share strategies to promote equity. Lessons learned from other countries related to truth and reconciliation commissions, how to support Community Health Workers in order to strengthen the public health workforce and strategies for transforming public health will be discussed. Register [here](#).

Across the Globe: Vaccinating our Most Vulnerable Homebound Patients – *June 3, 2021, 9:00 am ET*. While older adults have been prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the challenges in administering vaccines may differ by health system characteristics and local culture. This webinar will highlight the vaccine rollout issues in France, Israel, and Japan. Register [here](#).

Funding Announcement – National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved Communities. With funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, this initiative will support public health departments as they 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 May 3, 2021. More information about this funding opportunity can be found [here](#).

Funding Announcement – Vaccine Equity and Access. With funding provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Community Catalyst has announced the launch of their Vaccine Equity and Access Program, a national initiative that supports community-based organizations led by people of color to share information about vaccine access. This program is part of a broader effort led by the CDC to reduce disparities in COVID-19 and influenza vaccination rates. Community Catalyst plans to invest in approximately 75 community-based organizations led by and working with communities of color. Applications are being accepted for this initiative through May 5, 2021. More information about this funding opportunity can be found [here](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

Revised Mask Guidelines for Vaccinated People

The CDC has announced [“interim public health recommendations” on activities](#) that fully vaccinated people can engage in without wearing a mask. These activities include small gatherings outdoors with other vaccinated people. In addition, people should continue to wear masks indoors with unvaccinated people and in outdoor public spaces.

Visitation Rights for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities

The National Center on Law & Elder Rights has produced [a frequently asked questions document](#) that highlights visitation rights for nursing facility residents in response to COVID-19. This information has been updated recently to include guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Primary Care

[A recent report produced with support from the Milbank Memorial Fund and the CareQuest Institute for Oral Health](#) highlights trends in primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic. This report also contains recommendations and strategies for primary care clinical team members, health care industry leaders and policy experts on several areas including anti-racist policies that can advance primary care equity.

Additional Resources

Investigating the Role of Computer Games in Cognitive Functioning

An assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst has been awarded a National Institutes of Health grant to [study whether playing “serious computer games can prevent cognitive decline](#) among older adults with mild cognitive impairment. This pilot study will involve 50 older adults testing a six-game package. The researchers also plan to develop algorithms to create more elaborate games.

Adults May Need More Exercise

[A recent study published in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine](#) notes that adults may need to do more than 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week to have a positive impact on their longevity. The study suggests that five hours a week of exercise may be needed to increase your lifespan.

Reducing Age Segregation, Loneliness and Addiction

Given the importance of reducing loneliness, addiction and age segregation, innovative solutions to address these concerns have emerged. While not new, [12-step programs are well positioned to help older adults](#) who are lonely and those who suffer from addiction connect with other generations. Older adults are treated with respect in 12-step meetings and younger adults are often interested to hear about how they have navigated life’s challenges.

New Community Health Improvement Toolkit

[A new toolkit from the National Association of County and City Health Officials \(NACCHO\)](#) provides guidance in using the Healthy People 2030 objectives and targets at the local level in the community health improvement process. This toolkit is also designed to assist local health departments improve their community health work by focusing on objectives related to the social determinants of health. Additional features include a framework for facilitating strategic alignment between partners to achieve shared goals.

Loneliness in Midlife a Risk Factor for Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease

After controlling for the impact of age, sex, education, social network, living alone, physical health and genetic risk, [a recent study has noted that persistent loneliness during midlife \(ages 45-64\)](#) was associated with a higher risk of developing dementia. The researchers in this study also suggest that recovering from adverse life events like loneliness may actually be a protective factor in the context of dementia onset.

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