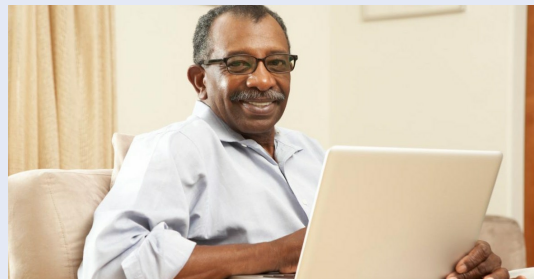


July 28, 2021

## Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



### News:

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Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is working to learn and disseminate information about the programs and strategies that state and local public health departments, as well as aging services and home care providers, have adopted and implemented to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to older adults who are homebound.

To accomplish this goal, we are asking departments of public health and organizations that support and serve older adults to complete the respective survey below. The survey is brief and will not take long to complete.

We appreciate your commitment to improving access to the COVID-19 vaccine for the homebound population. This information will also be analyzed to identify best practices for future emergencies.

[Survey for Departments of Public Health](#)

[Survey for Aging Services and Home Care Providers](#)

Please share with your colleagues and networks.

### Events and Opportunities:

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#### **Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Monthly Trainings**

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many organizations to review how they can support older adults and their caregivers during emergencies. The unique needs of older adults during emergencies can be planned for through careful collaboration between public health and the aging services network.

The August TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Training will focus on emergency preparedness. Presenters will discuss how emergency medical services (EMS) can serve as a force multiplier for public health. Collaborating with EMS as a trusted community partner can provide access to services and surveillance that support health departments missions.

This session will occur on **Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 3:00 pm ET**. Register [here](#). You can also view a recording of our July training – [Caregiving as a Public Health Priority](#)

**The Legacy Interviews** – *Wednesdays, June 23 – September 8, 2021, 1:00 pm ET.* The American Society on Aging's 12-week webcast series will feature interviews from leaders with decades of experience in the fields of aging, health and social services. The interviews will be conducted by Dr. Ken Dychtwald. Register [here](#).

**Understanding Social Isolation and its Impact on Older Adults and Those Living with Disabilities** - *Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET.* Hosted by the National Council on Aging, this webinar will explore loneliness and social isolation and their impacts on older adults. Presenters will also address risk factors that contribute to social isolation and loneliness, the costs of social isolation, and share resources, innovations, and tips. Register [here](#).

**Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Adults with Serious Mental Illnesses** – *Thursday, August 5, 2021, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET.* This is the second of a four-part national webinar series hosted by The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) to share research related to social isolation and loneliness for people with disabilities. NIDILRR grantees will share how social isolation and loneliness affect individuals with serious mental illnesses. Register [here](#).

**Symposium on Health and Medical Misinformation** – *Thursday, August 12, 2021, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm ET.* The American Public Health Association's Medical Care Section will host a session on the evolution and efforts to address medical misinformation and disinformation. The President of the American Public Health Association, Dr. José Ramón Fernández-Peña, is one of the featured speakers for this event. Register [here](#).

**Building and Maintaining Relationships After a Dementia Diagnosis: Dementia Care Partners and Social Isolation** – *Tuesday, August 24, 2021, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm ET.* The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center is hosting a webinar to discuss the impact of social isolation on people living with dementia and their caregivers. Presenters will discuss the importance of emotional and social support, why support may lessen following dementia diagnosis, and why people with dementia may self-isolate. Register [here](#).

**2021 Healthy Aging Symposium** – *September 8 & 9, 2021.* Co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and Trust for America's Health, this symposium will focus on sharing the latest research and successful approaches to healthy aging; connecting insights and ideas across sectors; addressing barriers and reducing health disparities among older Americans; and building on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. Register [here](#).

### **Request for Proposals – TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Initiative Evaluation**

TFAH is pleased to provide an opportunity to evaluate the AFPHS project. The project start date is October 1, 2021 and the evaluation should be completed by January 31, 2023. For more information about this opportunity, please access the RFP [here](#).

## **Resources:**

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### **COVID-19**

#### **Skilled Nursing Facility Staff Size and COVID-19 Cases**

A recent study notes that nursing homes with the most staff members had **COVID-19 case rates that were 92% higher than facilities with the fewest staff members.** The death rates in these facilities with more staff were 133% higher than the facilities with the fewest staff members. These findings are based on data from June through September 2020. This study is noteworthy because prior to this there was no clear relationship between COVID-19 outcomes and traditional measures of staffing.

#### **Vaccination Resources for Adult Day Services Centers**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated their [COVID-19 guidance to reduce the spread of virus in adult day services centers](#). The updates include:

- Added section on promoting vaccination
- Added guidance for ADSCs where everyone is fully vaccinated
- Updated guidance for ADSCs where not everyone is fully vaccinated
- Updated guidance on indoor and outdoor mask usage

### **Customizable COVID-19 Communications Toolkit**

Created with the support of the Delta Regional Authority and the Health Resources Services Administration's Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, the Delta Region Community Health Systems Development has developed a [Customizable Communications Toolkit](#). This toolkit was designed to support the development of rural community-based groups, faith-based organizations, businesses, public health, schools, and health care organizations with internal and external COVID-19 vaccine communication materials. The downloadable templates include print ads, posters, brochures, and social media posts.

### **Receiving Vaccines from Primary Care Providers**

Using data from the Medicare Part B fee-for-service data and the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, researchers have found that [primary care physicians provided 46% of vaccinations for older adults](#), followed by mass immunization programs at 45% and then nurse practitioners and physician assistants at 5%. Researchers also found that primary care physicians provide the largest percentage of clinical visits for vaccines at 54%.

### **Pandemic-Related Hunger Among Older Adults**

Two new issue briefs from the National Council on Aging and the Leading Age Long-Term Services and Support Center at UMass Boston highlight the [effects of pandemic-related food insecurity among older adults](#). The findings note that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was effective in reducing food insecurity. These briefs also emphasize the need for SNAP benefits provided by the American Rescue Plan to be permanent.

### **Additional Resources**

#### **New Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index**

The [Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#) is an extension of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's SVI. This index helps emergency response planners and public health officials identify, map, and plan support for communities. It also supports public health professionals' ability to provide support to communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a public health emergency.

#### **Creativity and Healthy Aging**

Research has noted that [participating in creative activities](#) such as singing, theater performance and visual artistry could support the well-being of older adults. Other recommendations include thinking outside the box with being creative and being playful.

#### **New Reframing Aging Resources**

The Gerontological Society of America's Reframing Aging Initiative has [new colorful flyers to help explain and confront ageism](#) by telling a new story about aging. These infographics include a brief overview of why ageism harms all of us, what ageism sounds like, and some suggestions for what you can do to confront the injustice of ageism.

#### **Using Data to Empower Medicaid to Support Health Equity**

[A recent episode of the Medicaid Leadership Exchange podcast](#) explores the ways to address inequities in Medicaid. Ben Shaffer, Medicaid Director at the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and Kelly Cunningham, Interim Medicaid Administrator at the Illinois Division of Medical Programs, Department of Healthcare and Family, shared the importance of effective data measurement in advancing health equity and better understanding the varied experiences of the populations served.

#### **Trends in Transportation**

The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center has released its [2020 Annual Trends Report](#). This report notes some of the challenges in transportation over the past year and solutions being implemented. Topics covered by the report include:

- Volunteer Driver Programs in the Age of COVID-19
- Transportation for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- A Fixed-Route Response to Assisting Communities During a Pandemic
- Meeting the Transportation Needs of Diverse Older Adults and People with Disabilities
- Medicare Advantage Transportation Programs
- Inclusive Planning for Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

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