

**Friday Review—5/28/21**

Good afternoon and welcome (almost) to Memorial Day weekend!  While the forecast isn’t great, remember this is considered the “unofficial” start of summer.

**Minimum staffing**—By now you are aware that Governor McKee signed the minimum staffing bill into law.  The new requirements go into effect January 1, 2022.  RIHCA continues to advocate with the Governor and the legislature for more funding so that our homes are better able to meet these mandates.

**Other states**—Mandatory minimum staffing is being considered in several other states, but apparently there are some loopholes.  [Loopholes remain in rush to upgrade nursing home staffing requirements - News - McKnight's Long Term Care News (mcknights.com)](https://www.mcknights.com/news/loopholes-remain-in-rush-to-upgrade-nursing-home-staffing-requirements/)

**More on staffing**—A new study shows that nursing home staffing levels stayed the same or actually increased during the pandemic.  [Nursing Home Staffing Hours Held Steady or Rose During Pandemic (providermagazine.com)](https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/Nursing-Home-Staffing-Hours-Held-Steady-or-Rose-During-Pandemic.aspx)

**Vaccine reporting**—Just a reminder that you are required to report on the vaccination rates of residents and staff on the NHSN portal.  For those who don’t comply, Civil Monetary Penalties will soon be imposed.  [Vaccine Reporting Requirements: CMPs to start June 14 (ahcancal.org)](https://www.ahcancal.org/News-and-Communications/Blog/Pages/CMPs-to-Start-June-14.aspx?cm_ven=ExactTarget&cm_cat=COVID-19+Update+%23178&cm_pla=All+Subscribers&cm_ite=https%3a%2f%2fwww.ahcancal.org%2fNews-and-Communications%2fBlog%2fPages%2fCMPs-to-Start-June-14.aspx&cm_lm=sfraser@rihca.com&cm_ainfo=&&&&&)

**Booster shot**—While it has not yet been determined if a COVID booster shot will be needed, AHCA/NCAL is urging public health officials to have a plan in place, just to be ready. [Long-term care advocates, worried about vulnerable residents, say plans for COVID-19 booster shots must start now - ABC News (go.com)](https://abcnews.go.com/US/long-term-care-advocates-worried-vulnerable-residents-plans/story?id=77922615)

**Vaccine hesitancy**—If you still have staff who are reluctant to get the vaccine, HHS has a new guide and toolkit to help.  [Build vaccine trust, vaccination rates among CNAs: HHS releases guide - Clinical Daily News - McKnight's Long Term Care News (mcknights.com)](https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/build-vaccine-trust-vaccination-rates-among-cnas-hhs-releases-guide/).

**3-day waiver**—Expect the 3-day stay, and other requirements suspended by CMS during the pandemic, to return. [Nursing Homes Must Expect 3-Day Rule, Other CMS Requirements Will Return - Skilled Nursing News](https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/05/nursing-homes-must-expect-3-day-rule-other-cms-requirements-will-return/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=a6c26561b0)

**Financial conditions—**There is a new call for financial transparency from public and non=public nursing home corporations. [Publicly traded nursing home companies were not ravaged financially by pandemic conditions: study - News - McKnight's Long Term Care News (mcknights.com)](https://www.mcknights.com/news/publicly-traded-nursing-home-companies-were-not-ravaged-financially-by-pandemic-conditions-study/)

**IRFs vs. SNFs**—Research shows that more patients are being released to inpatient rehabilitation facilities for rehab instead of nursing homes. [Skilled Nursing Providers Getting Squeezed As More Patients Go to IRFs Amid Pandemic - Skilled Nursing News](https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/05/skilled-nursing-providers-getting-squeezed-as-more-patients-go-to-irfs-amid-pandemic/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2bdd08a722)

**Confirmation season**—The new administrator for CMS, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure has been confirmed by the US Senate. [Providers welcome ‘strong choice’ Brooks-LaSure as CMS administrator following confirmation - News - McKnight's Long Term Care News (mcknights.com)](https://www.mcknights.com/news/providers-welcome-strong-choice-brooks-lasure-as-cms-administrator-following-confirmation/)

**Emotional PPE**—We talked about this program last Friday, but it is certainly worth mentioning again.  All of us have been affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic—some much more than others.  The Emotional PPE project connects health care workers to confidential, individual therapy sessions with licensed therapists.  The program is free.  No insurance is involved and again, it is all confidential.  I encourage you to share this with staff and/or loved ones who may be affected.  You may even want to check this out yourself.  You can find more information here: [The Emotional PPE Project](https://emotionalppe.org/)

As we care for others, let us not forget self-care.

OK, the weekend is here.  Some are lucky enough to have an extra day off.  The forecast isn’t promising, but think of it as “liquid sunshine” and it may get you out of doing yardwork!  For the Indy 500 fans, just remember “go fast, turn left”.

And on a serious note, may we never forget why we celebrate this weekend.  While veterans are finally getting the recognition they deserve, Memorial Day is to honor those who never got the chance to taste that recognition.  They gave their lives so we can celebrate in freedom and peace.  Thank you for your service!

Enjoy your weekend!