

**Friday Review—2/12/21**

Good afternoon and Happy Friday! First off, congrats to Tom Brady, the Bucs and their fans for a great Super Bowl win. I must admit, by the time the game started, I had come around and was rooting for Brady, Gronk and the rest of New England-South.

**Dose 1 at clinic 3?**—Over the last week or two, questions have come up, and different answers have been given, about whether residents and staff can get their first vaccines at Clinic #3. The answer is yes, they can. On a call today, RIDOH confirmed this and an email was sent out from the Rhode Island Health Notification system earlier this afternoon. RIDOH also told us of a new partnership with Pharmerica. As of March 1st, the drug company will make arrangements to come to homes and vaccinate new residents. We are not sure yet if new staff will be included as well. More information will be coming at a later date.

**CDC vs. RIDOH**—By now, I’m sure you have seen the new CDC quarantine guidance for vaccinated staff. AHCA sent an email about this yesterday afternoon. Officials at RIDOH told us today they are studying the new guidance from CDC, but as of now “no changes have been made at the state level yet.”

**Visitation—get ready**—Now that the third round of vaccinations is underway, RIDOH is putting a new policy together on visitation. They told us today that guidance will be coming out next week. In advance, their advice to our members is to “have a visitation plan in place and make it available.” They said exceptions will be allowed. More information from RIDOH will be coming next week.

**Permanent CNA licensing**—There is still room in training classes for those who want to move from an emergency temporary CNA license to permanent licensure. The classes are offered through American Safety Programs and Training. They are online and can be taken at a student’s own pace. The classes are free, thanks to a grant through the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. If you have staff that want to take advantage of this program, reach out to Dave Bodah at RIALA, 435-8888. He is coordinating these efforts.

**CNA testing**—A backlog still exists to test those who have completed the 80 hour CNA training course. RIDOH tells us today that 5 new testing sites will soon be set up around the state. However, they do not have any dates yet for when these sites will begin testing. Hopefully, this will end the backlog and get these folks a permanent license. We will provide more information as we get it.

**Vaccines = results**—A new study shows that COVID-19 cases in nursing homes were reduced by almost half after the first round of vaccines. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/02/vaccine-clinics-in-nursing-homes-reduce-covid-19-transmission-by-48-within-three-weeks-study-finds/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=b41cc53ba0>

**Fully vaccinated—now what?**—Dr. Fauci says new guidance may be coming soon for those who have been fully vaccinated. <https://us.cnn.com/2021/02/08/health/us-coronavirus-monday/index.html>

**Massive losses**—The long-term care industry will lose $94 billion over a two-year period due to the pandemic. That forecast came out this week from AHCA/NCAL. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/long-term-care-to-lose-94-billion-due-to-pandemic-forecast/>

**More oversight?**—With a new administration comes predictions of additional oversight of nursing homes. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/02/amid-stalled-hhs-confirmation-frontrunner-emerges-for-cms-chief-report/>

**CMS leader**—A new candidate is emerging to be the next CMS administrator. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/02/amid-stalled-hhs-confirmation-frontrunner-emerges-for-cms-chief-report/>

**New PR campaign!**--Know Nursing Homes, Know Care is RIHCA’s new public relations campaign. Please visit the website: <https://nohomesnocare.com> to find our Legislative Alerts, Resource Guides and more!

**Like us on Facebook!**—Are you on social media? (Let’s face it, who isn’t?) Well then, please follow us on Facebook at: rihealthcareassociation. You can stay up to date on what’s happening at RIHCA, with our members and in our industry!

And that brings us to the weekend. But not just any weekend…..Valentine’s Day is on Sunday! Guys, you still have time to shop—cards, flowers, candy….maybe all three!

No football this weekend. (It’s a long way to summer training camp!) But there is another Super Bowl on Sunday. NASCAR fans will tell you that the Daytona 500, which kicks off the racing season, is their version of the Super Bowl. The drivers fire up their engines Sunday afternoon. Go fast! Turn left!

Have a great weekend!