

**Friday Review—3/12/21**

Spring Fevah! Two days in a row with temps at or near 70. We set the clocks ahead to Daylight Saving Time this weekend. Definitely headed in the right direction!

**Repeating good news**—Just about everybody has heard this by now, but it bears repeating. Governor McKee has proposed fully funding the Medicaid Inflation Index in the upcoming year’s budget. This will mean an extra $9.6 million dollars for Rhode Island’s nursing homes.

**Continuing vaccines**—Still no word from the state of Rhode Island on how the vaccination program will continue for new residents of nursing homes. RIHCA has been asking for this program to be finalized for weeks, but we still do not have any answers. On a call with RIDOH today, we were told the matter is now at the Department of Administration for a final decision. Meanwhile new staff and residents in our homes still need vaccinations. Staff can go to any of the state-run clinics to receive their vaccine. For now, homes are urged to update the questionnaire the state sent out last week so that they know how many new doses will be needed. As a reminder, that survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3JGZM7K>

**Visitation clarification**—As you know, CMS has issued revised visitation guidelines this week. Most of what they announced is already in place in Rhode Island. One question that keeps coming up was clarified by DOH today. New residents who are fully vaccinated (and who have not had close contact with anyone who has COVID in 14 days) do not need to quarantine upon admission to a skilled nursing facility. RIDOH says that they will be updating this guidance online, but you can implement this immediately even if the health department site is not yet updated.

**Low numbers everywhere**—At the end of February, 93% of nursing homes around the country reported no new COVID cases among residents. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/93-of-snfs-reported-no-new-cases-of-covid-19-to-end-february/>

**COVID-only nursing homes**—But in New York, there is still a need for these homes, according to this account in Skilled Nursing News.

<https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/03/inside-a-new-covid-only-nursing-home-and-why-theyre-still-necessary-a-year-into-covid-19/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ed5162473b>

**New stimulus bill**—While there is no extra direct funding for nursing homes, the bill contains $250 million dollars for strike teams, as well as $200 million for infection control. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/03/congress-oks-stimulus-with-250m-for-nursing-home-strike-teams-200m-for-infection-control-vaccine-support/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7183526f1f>

**RIHCA Briefs……**

**Grass Roots Boot Camp**—Just a reminder to sign up for the Legislative Agenda and Grass Roots Boot Camp coming up on Tuesday the 16th from 10-11. This one-hour session will help prepare you to reach out to your local representative or senator to advocate for or against legislation which affects the nursing home profession. And you can earn one CEU as well. Contact Katie Norman to sign up, knorman@rihca.com

**Calendar of Gifts**—The December Calendar of Gifts raffle to benefit RIHCA’s Political Action Committee (PAC) has been so popular, we are holding another raffle in April. Thanks to the generosity of our Associate Business Members, we will be choosing winners Monday through Saturday for the entire month of April. You can purchase tickets all during the month of March. Contact Katie Norman (see above) to buy your tickets.

**PAC on-line**—Most all of you received an email from me this week inviting you to contribute to RIHCA’s PAC (Political Action Committee.) This year we have made it even easier. You can contribute on our website with just one simple click. To make it even easier, I am posting the link right here: <https://rihca.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mcform&view=ngforms&id=2066307#/>

Just one click and you can fill out the form. What could be easier?

Thank you to all who have already generously contributed. In the future, we will be thanking folks by name and showing you the progress of our campaign.

**Golf—Save the Date!**—Another sure sign of spring is getting save the date cards for RIHCA’s annual golf tournament. Once again, we will be back at the beautiful Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln. Even if you don’t play well (like me), it is a beautiful course. Please mark June 28th in your calendar. It is sure to be a good time!

Let’s see, warm temperatures, setting clocks ahead, saving dates for golf—sure signs that Spring is almost here! By the way, Cam Newton re-signing a one-year deal with the Patriots. Discuss amongst yourselves.

Have a great weekend!