

**Friday Review—3/19/21**

Happy Friday, and Happy St. Joseph’s Day! I must admit, I have already had my share of zeppoles this week. Not to mention corned beef and cabbage.

Lots of vaccine news this week…..

**Locally**—Most all know by now that Walgreens and CVS have agreed to continue the vaccination programs at our homes for this week and next until the state’s new vendor is on board. That new vendor (still to be announced) is due to start on March 29.

**Nationally**—AHCA and others are continuing to urge the Federal government to make long-term care facilities a priority for vaccines. <https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/Long-Term-Care-Providers-Push-to-Remain-a-Priority-for-COVID-19-Vaccines.aspx>

**Beware new variants**—A new variant of COVID-19 has hit a Kentucky nursing home infecting both vaccinated and non-vaccinated residents. Providers are urged to remain vigilant. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/covid-19-variant-fuels-outbreak-among-nursing-home-residents-vaccinated-or-not/>

**Pfizer vaccine**—The CDC says the Pfizer vaccine is effective for nursing home residents even after just one dose. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/covid-vaccine-effective-one-dose-nursing-home-residents-cdc>

**OSHA is cracking down**—OSHA has begun a “national emphasis program”—12 months of inspections targeting skilled nursing and other long-term care facilities. RIHCA is already hearing of some stiff penalties being faced by members. Be as prepared as possible for these targeted inspections. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/oshas-new-covid-19-inspection-whistleblower-program-targets-alfs-ccrcs-and-snfs/>

News from Washington….

**Care for Our Seniors Act**—AHCA/NCAL, in conjunction with LeadingAge announced a series of legislative proposals this week. The plan addresses four key areas: clinical care, workforce, oversight and structure. It also outlines funding for each part of the legislative package. More information can be found here: <https://www.ahcancal.org/Advocacy/Pages/Care-For-Our-Seniors-Act.aspx>

**Senate Finance Committee**—Nursing homes and staffing problems were on the firing line at this committee hearing this week. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/03/staffing-and-ownership-structure-take-center-stage-in-senate-hearing-on-covid-19-in-nursing-homes/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=4cad4aa904>

**AHCA’s response**—In testimony before the Committee, AHCA’s David Gifford told the Senate that workforce problems are directly tied to the lack of adequate funding. <https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/Workforce-Crisis-in-SNFs-Points-to-Need-for-Greater-Reimbursement-.aspx>

**Senator Warren continues probing**—Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren is promising an investigation into for-profit and private equity nursing home ownership. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/03/warren-raises-alarm-over-private-equity-investment-restructuring-at-nursing-home-giant-genesis/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=4cad4aa904>

**New HHS Secretary**—By just one vote, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra has been confirmed as the new Secretary of Health and Human Services. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/03/senate-narrowly-confirms-becerra-as-hhs-secretary/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5585902959>

**In Connecticut…**--The Connecticut legislature is considering comprehensive nursing home reforms, including mandatory minimum staffing. <https://www.courant.com/politics/hc-pol-nursing-home-legislation-20210317-f77g5brcdnd3jmvi2a5ogl6v7u-story.html>

Post-COVID…..

**Families calling for reform**—Families are demanding no more lockdowns and want to be more involved in decision making as a result of COVID-19. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/03/what-families-want-from-nursing-home-reform-post-covid-no-more-lockdowns-and-a-seat-at-the-table/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5585902959>

**Virtual continuation**—Remote visitation and virtual marketing are expected to continue at long-term care facilities even after all are fully open for visitation. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/virtual-marketing-remote-visits-here-to-stay-senior-living-and-care-operators-say/>

**American College of Health Care Administrators**—The ACHCA will be holding their Newport Conference again this year. The dates are May 26-28. Capacity is limited due to COVID protocol. This is always a fun event, so save the date. Sign up information will be available soon.

**BOLO**—Be on the lookout for RIHCA’s new “This Week at RIHCA” newsletter. This brief one pager will list all committee meetings for the week as well as upcoming educational seminars. Check your inbox every Monday beginning next week!

Phew! A lot of information this week!

So, a dusting of snow on the ground this morning (at least in my neck of the woods) and Spring arrives tomorrow. That’s about right for New England weather in March. Set your clocks for 5:37 tomorrow morning to usher in the vernal equinox. Have a great weekend!