

**Friday Review—4/30/21**

With the last day of April today, that means May Day is tomorrow! I miss the traditional May breakfasts. Maybe they will resume next year.

**New vaccination guidance**—Earlier today, RIDOH sent new guidelines for nursing home surveillance testing as well as a vaccination posting memo. In case you did not see it, both are attached to this email.

**Mandatory staffing**—Unfortunately, the minimum staffing bill has been voted out of committee. It will go to the full House of Representatives for a vote as early as Tuesday of next week. That’s why it is critically important for you to reach out to your Representative. Ask them to contact the Speaker of the House to pass along our strong concern for what this bill will do to our profession. Katie Norman sent around talking points earlier today. They are also attached to this email.

**Other legislation**—The RIHCA bill to provide for additional funding if the state does not perform the mandated re-array was heard in the Senate last night. RIHCA and two others spoke in favor of the bill. There was no opposition. RIHCA also testified against a bill to allow cameras in individual rooms of nursing homes. Both bills were held for further study. We have no indication on the prospects for either bill.

**Federal funding request**—AHCA continues to push for an additional $15 billion dollars in federal funds to aid in census recovery for skilled nursing facilities. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-homes-alfs-asking-for-15b-more-in-federal-funding-to-aid-census-recovery/>

**Updated federal guidance**—CMS and CDC have issued new guidance for long-term care facilities in response to the successful vaccine program. [https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/COVID-Vaccine-Results-in-Changes-to-LTC-Guidance-for-Visitors,-Dining.aspx](https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/COVID-Vaccine-Results-in-Changes-to-LTC-Guidance-for-Visitors%2C-Dining.aspx)

**Vaccine success**—Seniors who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines have a much lower rate of hospitalization for COVID-19. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/28/pfizer-moderna-vaccines-effective-protecting-seniors/>

**Profits and infection control**—Skilled nursing facilities with higher profit margins were significantly less likely to be cited for infection control violations. This study reviewed the period 2017-2019. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/more-profitable-nursing-homes-log-fewer-infection-control-citations-study-finds/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1465bd3da8>

**Single rooms**—An international study found that 31% of COVID-19 deaths could have been prevented if all residents had single rooms. However, 30,000 additional rooms would have been needed to accomplish this. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/single-rooms-could-have-prevented-31-of-deaths-for-long-term-care-residents-international-study-finds/>

**Staff recruiting and retention**—Consultants suggest creativity and flexibility are two important factors in helping ease the staffing shortage. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/double-shifts-time-sharing-and-tiers-may-be-part-of-creative-approach-needed-to-boost-staff-recruitment-and-retention-expert-says/>

**Personal care attendant**—The Florida legislature has passed into law a bill creating a new class of workers—the personal care attendant. The goal is to help ease the staffing shortage there. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/lawmakers-allow-long-term-care-providers-to-keep-using-personal-care-attendants-as-extra-staffing-source-at-facilities/>

**Cancelling Newport meeting**—The American College of Health Care Administrators is cancelling the spring regional conference in Newport this year, due to COVID rules. Looking ahead, the College would like to have a cocktail party in June (maybe in Newport) and they tell me the Fall Regional Conference in Portland Maine in September looks like a “go”.

Well, the Patriots drafted a quarterback with their first pick of this year’s draft. And even though Mac Jones has not even put on a Pats jersey yet, comparisons to Tom Brady have begun. It’s spring, draft season, and football hope springs eternal.

Happy May 1st tomorrow. Whatever you do, be careful where you yell May Day!

Have a great weekend!