

**Friday Review—4/9/21**

OK, a severe case of Spring Fever this afternoon. Hope you get a chance to enjoy!

**CNA testing update**—We know you continue to have frustrations with the lack of CNA testing for those students who have completed their coursework and clinicals. RIHCA continues to reach out to RIDOH and the Governor’s Office to help clear this backlog. We are told that a third site, at CCRI in Lincoln will begin testing next week, but more needs to be done. RIHCA sent a news release this week outlining the problems. Below is a link to the Channel 10 coverage. [Health care association calls for health department to review CNA testing program | WJAR (turnto10.com)](https://turnto10.com/news/local/health-care-association-calls-for-health-department-to-review-cna-testing-program)

**4.1 update**—There is nothing new to report on this legislation. RIHCA’s government relations team continues to oppose this bill with legislative leaders who will be making the final decision. We are also sending multiple emails and snail mail containing quick bits of information on how passage of the present bill would be devastating to our industry. It now appears that no action will be taken on this until after the legislature’s April recess.

**Limiting nursing home profits**—The New York legislature has agreed to a new budget for next year. Beginning on January 1st, nursing home profits in excess of 5% will have to be returned to the state. Also, 70% of nursing home revenue must go to Direct Care. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/new-york-to-cap-nursing-home-profits-at-5-require-operators-to-spend-70-of-revenue-on-direct-care/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=533b6822f0>

**Slight Medicare increase**—CMS is proposing a 1.3% increase in Medicare rates for fiscal year 2022. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/cms-proposes-444m-medicare-boost-for-nursing-homes-calls-out-unintended-1-7b-pdpm-gain/>

**All time low**—Occupancy in skilled nursing facilities dropped to the lowest level ever in January of this year. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/snf-occupancy-hits-record-lows-nic-report/>

**However, AHCA is hopeful**—AHCA President Mark Parkinson is hoping for a recovery of census this year. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/parkinson-hopeful-snf-occupancy-will-rebound-this-year/>

**Focus on CNAs**—One way to solve the problems in long-term care is to place more focus on CNAs. That’s according to the national association representing that profession. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/for-true-nursing-home-reforms-operators-and-experts-agree-invest-in-cnas/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=1a286a54ce>

**AHCA agrees**—Mark Parkinson says these front-line workers (CNAs) are a key reason for the stability of the industry during the pandemic. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/words-are-not-enough-employers-leaders-push-to-increase-cna-wages/>

**New quality measure**—CMS is proposing a new quality measure for skilled nursing facilities to track vaccine coverage among employees. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/up-next-cms-moves-to-mandate-staff-vaccination-reporting-during-covid-19/>

**Taking its toll**—A majority of health care workers are reporting pandemic-induced stress and burnout. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2021/04/06/stress-front-lines-health-care-workers-share-hardest-parts-working-during-pandemic/>

**Intense therapy**—Increased intensity of therapy is leading to better outcomes for nursing home residents. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/04/therapy-intensity-linked-to-lower-readmission-rates-better-outcomes-for-nursing-home-residents-study-finds/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cc17ebc7c6>

Well, that’s a wrap for this week. Don’t tell anyone, but I’m going to try to sneak out 5 minutes early to enjoy the day. Hope you can enjoy this afternoon and tomorrow’s sunshine.

I leave you with this positive thought: The IRS has extended their filing deadline for one month, so you don’t have to race around this weekend getting all your tax info together. Just don’t put it off too much further!

Have a great weekend!