

**Friday Review—5/7/21**

Good afternoon, and welcome to the beginning of Mother’s Day weekend! I think that’s why they made the holiday on a Sunday—so those of us last minute shoppers still have time to get a card and a gift.

**Mandatory staffing**—By now, we all know that the mandatory staffing bill, with some amendments, has passed the House. The bill will be sent to the Senate for consideration. Although nothing has been scheduled on the Senate side, it is expected to pass very quickly.

**Minimum staffing in New York**—The New York legislature has passed minimum staffing legislation for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. <https://www.wamc.org/post/ny-lawmakers-mandate-minimum-staffing-nursing-homes-hospitals>

**More on staffing**—A new study shows that increased workload for nursing home staff gave the impression of staff shortages during the pandemic. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/difficult-workload-created-perception-of-nursing-home-staffing-shortages-during-pandemic-study/>

**Medicaid increase in New Jersey**—The Governor of New Jersey is proposing a 10% Medicaid increase to be used for staffing and infection control. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/this-state-is-strongly-considering-a-10-medicaid-pay-boost-and-officials-likely-will-dictate-precisely-how-providers-spend-it/>

**Occupancy predictions**—A health care CEO is predicting census could reach pre-pandemic levels as early as the first quarter of 2022. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/05/matros-skilled-nursing-occupancy-could-reach-pre-pandemic-levels-by-q1-of-2022/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dca65be402>

**Another point of view**—However, a report on occupancy from the National Investment Center for Seniors Housing and Care says the next few months will be critical for rebuilding census. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/05/nic-snf-occupancy-shows-signs-of-stabilization-but-next-few-months-are-critical/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dca65be402>

**Federal surveys lagging in MA**—Nearly 2/3 of all Massachusetts nursing homes are behind on federal inspections. However, state surveyors have been very active in the last 12 months. <https://www.salemnews.com/news/local_news/inspections-of-nursing-home-in-state-lag-behind-us-average/article_6a8f3614-2dd6-5fa5-b4d6-cdc0df4e64a2.html>

**June PAC event**—Join us on Wednesday June 9th at LineSider Brewing Company in East Greenwich for an event to benefit the RIHCA Political Action Committee. Tickets are only $25 (Personal check or credit card only.) Contact Katie Norman to RSVP. Finally…..getting together in person! Hope to see you there!

**Sensory gardens**—Seven homes in Washington state are setting up indoor sensory gardens. These are especially helpful for residents with dementia. <https://www.providermagazine.com/Breaking-News/Pages/Washington-State-Nursing-Homes-Grow-Gardens-to-Nurture-Residents.aspx>

**Alzheimers and radiation**—A limited study says low-dose radiation may help treat Alzheimers. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/clinical-news/low-dose-brain-radiation-improves-behavior-cognition-in-alzheimers-pilot-study/>

**National Skilled Nursing Care Week**—"Together through the seasons” is the theme of this year’s celebration which begins on Sunday. Here is a link to additional information and a tool kit and planning guide from AHCA. [National Skilled Nursing Care Week (ahcancal.org)](https://www.ahcancal.org/Education-Events/Pages/NSNCW.aspx)

If there was ever a year to honor all who work in skilled nursing care, it would be this year. The last 12 months have been like no other year, yet you hung in there, putting your own safety aside so that you could care for and protect your residents. Yes, sadly, some residents passed away. We mourn their passing and grieve with their loved ones. However, I know the toll from COVID-19 would have been much worse were it not for the dedicated and selfless care provided by all during this pandemic. Once again, I say thank you, and here’s to celebrating all of you next week!

Have a great weekend!