

**Friday Review—6/11/21**

Good afternoon and welcome to an absolutely picture-perfect spring Friday afternoon. Hope you had a chance to sneak out early and enjoy it. Yeah, I know……me neither.

**Vaccine reporting**—Just a reminder, you only have a day or two left to post your staff and resident vaccination rates on the NHSN portal. As of Monday 6/14, civil monetary penalties will begin. The most recent figures released show only about 30% of Rhode Island nursing homes have submitted this information.

**Vaccination rates**—NHSN has begun posting vaccination rates for nursing homes around the country. More work needs to be done. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/nursing-homes-face-barrage-of-penalties-if-vaccination-reporting-doesnt-pick-up-fast/>

**Wages going up**—Across the country, nursing homes are increasing pay for CNAs and LPNs. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/new-cna-lpn-contracts-raise-wages-and-labor-costs-across-united-states/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=75052ba353>

**Employment is up-slightly**—The US Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that nationwide employment in nursing homes was up last month. <https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/business-daily-news/nursing-home-employment-increases-slightly-in-may-labor-department/>

**Future of nursing**—Health equity and minority representation will be the focus in the future. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/minority-representation-needed-in-highly-skilled-health-positions-that-includes-the-snf-space-too/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=75052ba353>

**Rebuilding trust…**--Will be a key factor in the rebound of long-term and post-acute care. <https://www.providermagazine.com/Topics/Special-Features/Pages/Regaining-Community-Trust-Post-Pandemic.aspx>

**More relief funding?**—AHCA’s Mark Parkinson says more money could be coming soon from the federal Provider Relief Fund. <https://www.mcknights.com/news/feds-to-deliver-positive-news-on-provider-relief-fund-in-coming-days-parkinson/>

**Top challenges**—Occupancy and staffing are the key hurdles for long-term care facilities both here in Rhode Island and nationwide. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/ceos-see-long-term-care-occupancy-staffing-as-top-post-pandemic-challenges/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=60dbc6d2fc>

**When it comes to technology….**—don’t be left out! <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/snfs-that-dont-embrace-technology-will-be-left-out-in-the-cold/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=75052ba353>

**New CMS Administrator**—As Chiquita Brooks-LaSure settles into her new position, changes are expected. <https://skillednursingnews.com/2021/06/as-new-leader-takes-cms-helm-look-for-action-on-snf-waivers-and-infection-control-policies/?euid=a3545010f7&utm_source=snn-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=d50498300c>

**Alzheimer’s drug approved**—The FDA has given the OK for the use of aducanumab to treat Alzheimer’s. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2021/06/07/business/fda-oks-biogens-alzheimers-drug-first-new-medicine-disease-18-years/?s_campaign=rhodemap:newsletter>

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**—Thanks to everyone who came out Wednesday night to support RIHCA’s PAC event at the LineSider Brewery in East Greenwich. We had a wonderful turnout and the adult beverages of choice weren’t bad either. It was great to see everyone, sans mask. Special note of thanks to Katie Norman and her volunteers who put together a fun event. We look forward to seeing you at the golf tournament!

It certainly is no secret that I am a big fan of all Boston sports. However, this weekend, I am switching my allegiance to the Blue Jays. What, you ask??? No, not the Toronto Blue Jays, but the Plymouth (MA) T-ball Blue Jays. Will be going down on Sunday to check out my almost-four-year-old grandson Hudson’s “game”. As Hudson would say “Go Boo Jays!”

Have a great weekend everyone!