



SMP and Partners News -9th Edition June 25 – July 9, 2020

SMP Updates:

- Continued Education Opportunity:
 - COVID-10 Medicare Scams Training: This 30 minute training on COVID-19 Medicare scams is for SMP staff, partners, and volunteers, as well as Medicare beneficiaries and caregivers. <https://www.smpresource.org/Content/Medicare-Fraud/Fraud-Schemes/COVID-19-Fraud.aspx>
- COVID-19 Resources: Videos
 - Common COVID-19 Medicare Scams <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37O74z2jNxw>
 - COVID-19 Medicare Scams Training (education purposes only) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_PQfSokkfE&t=4s
- SMP Resource Center – Latest Infographic
 - Home Health Scams (to be shared on social media or printed and used as posters or handouts)



CMS Updates:

- Medicare COVID-19 Data
 - CMS has published new data that provides an overview of how COVID-19 is affecting Medicare beneficiaries. The data highlights disparities in outcomes for racial and ethnic minority groups and among low-income populations. This data breaks down COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations for Medicare beneficiaries by state, race/ethnicity, age, gender, dual eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid, and urban/rural locations. <https://www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-systems/preliminary-medicare-covid-19-data-snapshot>

ACL:

- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has added resources to their COVID-19 resource page. <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/acls-covid-19-resources-whats-new-10>
 - Bringing it all together: “Guidance for ACL Grantees” includes a document with all of ACL’s COVID-19 related Older Americans Act guidance.
 - Cloth face coverings: CDC guidance on considerations for wearing cloth face coverings.

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:

- Protecting Older Residents during a Pandemic: Caregivers and assisted living and nursing facilities can work together to help protect residents from financial exploitation, both during the pandemic and after life returns to a new normal. The CFPB has created a guide to protect residents from elder financial exploitation. https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201406_cfpb_guide_protecting-residents-from-financial-exploitation.pdf?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=OA_FIAOA

Virginia Department of Health:

- Contract Tracers: The Virginia Department of Health urges Virginians to engage with legitimate contact tracers and avoid scams. If you receive a call from a VDH contract tracer, the caller ID will read “VDH COVID Team.” The Commonwealth employs contact tracers to notify individuals who have been exposed to known cases of COVID-19. Contact tracers will not ask for money or information such as a Social Security Number (SSN), bank account details, or credit card numbers. The Commonwealth does not charge individuals for contact tracing services. <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/2020-news-releases/virginia-department-of-health-urges-virginians-to-engage-with-legitimate-contact-tracers-avoid-scams/>

Federal Trade Commission:

- COVID Mask Exemption Card Scam: To help limit the spread of the Coronavirus, many states are requiring people to wear face coverings in places open to the public. There are cards circulating online and on social media that say the holder has a disability that prevents them from wearing a mask, and that it’s illegal for any business to ask them to disclose their condition. Variations of the card include the seal of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), one of the federal agencies responsible for enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please note these cards are not issued or endorsed by DOB or any other federal agency. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/06/covid-mask-exemption-cards-are-not-government>