



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 86

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The Tuesday Digest is information compiled by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts concerning long-term services, support, living options, and care issued each Tuesday.

*May require registration before accessing article.

Quotes of the Week

“If you're just an average person trying to navigate [the Test-to-Treat system], it's actually completely impossible.”

Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California-San Francisco, *How the Test-to-Treat Pillar of the US Covid Strategy Is Failing Patients*, **Kaiser Health News**, April 15, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/TestToTreat>

“CARE Court is not the appropriate tool for providing a path to wellness for Californians living with mental health disabilities who face homelessness, incarceration, hospitalization, conservatorship, and premature death. Instead, California should invest in evidence-based practices that are proven to work and that will actually empower people living with mental health disabilities on their paths to recovery and allow them to retain full autonomy over their lives without the intrusion of a court.”

From a statement by more than three dozen organizations and individuals, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Disability Rights California and the Western Center on Law and Poverty, *Opposition mounts against Newsom's plan for court-ordered treatment of homeless people*, ***Los Angeles Times**, April 19, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/CourtCareOpposed>

“She went from having a normal life and routine she liked, where her day started with the bus picking her up and taking her to school, to completely being shut down. She didn't understand why everything had stopped. She'd wake up, get ready and then ask, ‘Where's the bus?’ We had to tell her it wasn't coming, and she got so frustrated.”

Karen Sweeney, mother of Jovay Sweeney, 21-years-old, who has cerebral palsy, *Md. grant will help students with disabilities set back by pandemic*, ***The Washington Post**, April 13, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/HelpStudentsWithDisabilities>

“The pandemic showed in stark terms the cost of not investing in long-term care. It will be hard to meet the needs of a lot of middle-class folks who want to age in place. There is a shortage of workers to care for people who want to stay at home. The housing stock is often not conducive. And older folks have to be able to get to places if they can’t drive.”

Marc Cohen, gerontology professor and researcher, University of Massachusetts Boston, *Pandemic’s lesson for many older folks: Stay in your home as long as you can*, ***Boston Globe**, April 18, 2022 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicsLessons>

“The house itself will become the technology, and it will be ambient and proactive. The pandemic served as a propellant. We learned as caregivers and individuals that ‘I can extend my stay at home.’”

Joe Coughlin, director of MIT’s AgeLab, *Pandemic’s lesson for many older folks: Stay in your home as long as you can*, ***Boston Globe**, April 18, 2022 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/PandemicsLessons>

“We just forget to die.”

101-year-old woman, resident on the island of Ikaria, Greece, *The Island Where People Forget to Die*, **New York Times (free access)**, October 24, 2012, <https://tinyurl.com/IslandForgetToDie>

“I really want people around the world to know there is a woman in her 60s, far off in Japan, who is running sub-three for the marathon and I really want to cross the finish line to see a clock starting at number two.”

Mariko Yugeta, 63-year-old Japanese woman, expressing her wishes regarding her participation in the Boston Marathon, *She Set Marathon Records in Her Sixties. Then Came the Fans.*, ***New York Times**, April 19, 2022 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonRecordsInHer60s>

“Being Deaf assigned me a battle. If my family were hearing

and I were the only Deaf person, I don't think I'd see the value in the fight. I wouldn't see the value in advocating for my own rights, and I wouldn't have learned it at home."

Nyle DiMarco, model, producer, and writer, In 'Deaf Utopia,' Nyle DiMarco Dreams of Integrating the Deaf and Hearing Worlds, ***New York Times**, April 19, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/DeafUtopia>

Racial and ethnic discrimination has a significant impact on the health of people of color, affecting mental health and contributing to high blood pressure, negative health behaviors, and early aging. For Black older adults, the cumulative effects of race-related stress experienced over the course of a life can increase the risk for mental and physical health problems.

How Discrimination in Health Care Affects Older Americans, and What Health Systems and Providers Can Do, **The Commonwealth Fund**, April 21, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/HCDiscriminationOlderPersons>

"It's a whole new frightening possibility of elder abuse."

Donovan Maust, a geriatric psychiatrist and health services researcher at the Michigan Medicine Department of Psychiatry, commenting on the potential misuse of psychedelics, A psychedelic therapist allegedly took millions from a Holocaust survivor, highlighting worries about elders taking hallucinogens, **STAT Investigations**, April 21, 2022, <https://tinyurl.com/PsychedelicConcerns>







"If the courts handcuff the CDC in this most classic exercise of public health powers, it seems to me that CDC will not be able to act nimbly and decisively when the next health crisis hits. And it will hit."

Lawrence O. Gostin, Georgetown University professor of global health law, Biden administration to appeal ruling striking down transit mask mandate, **Washington Post**, April 20, 2022 (updated), <https://tinyurl.com/AppealRuling>

"Another new strain that appears to be even more transmissible than the last and that would explain at least some of the rise in cases we are starting to see, though I think we would have seen one even without this."

Matthew Fox, Boston University School of Public Health epidemiology professor, New omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 on the rise in New England, COVID strain appears to be 'even more transmissible', ***Boston Herald**, April 20, 2022

	<p>(updated), https://tinyurl.com/NewOmicronSubvariant</p> <p><i>“Mama didn’t deserve such a death.”</i> Larissa, daughter of Vanda Semyonovna Obiedkova, a 91-year-old holocaust survivor who died while sheltering in a cold basement in besieged Mariupol, <i>Holocaust survivor, 91, dies while hiding in basement in Ukraine</i>, Forward, April 19, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/HolocaustSurvivorDies</p> <p><i>“If one of my students turned in this opinion as their final exam, I don't know if I would agree that they had gotten the analysis correct. It reads like someone who had decided the case and then tried to dress it up as legal reasoning without actually doing the legal reasoning.”</i> Erin Fuse Brown, law professor at Georgia State University, <i>The judge who tossed mask mandate misunderstood public health law, legal experts say</i>, NPR Shots, April 19, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/TossedMaskMandate</p> <p><i>“This is really a serious deviation from not just what we're trying to do to protect the public's health, but a misstatement of federal authority in emergencies to a great degree.”</i> James Hodge, law professor at Arizona State University, <i>The judge who tossed mask mandate misunderstood public health law, legal experts say</i>, NPR Shots, April 19, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/TossedMaskMandate</p> <p><i>“This is not any average population that’s being displaced. These are frail, at-risk individuals and disrupting them in even relatively modest ways can be problematic.”</i> Paul Lanzikos, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Coordinator, <i>Assisted living residents given 90 days to move out</i>, Salem News, April 21, 2022, https://salemnews-cnhi.newsmemory.com/?publink=1d80c79a7_1348429</p>
Dignity Votes 2022	<p>1. Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs Prepared by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Workgroups</p> <p>Nursing Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing Home Fact Sheet • Nursing Home Staffing Issues • Pandemic Issues in Nursing Homes <p>Home and Community Based Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCBS Fact Sheet • HCBS Staffing Issues • HCBS Care Coordination Issues <p>Behavioral Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health Fact Sheet • BH Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams (EMHOT) Issues

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BH Nursing Homes and Psychotropic/Antipsychotic Drugs Issues • Social Work Staffing Issues <p>Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Issues <p>Veterans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Issues <p>https://dignityalliancema.org/2022-facts-and-issues/</p>
Boston Marathon	<p>2. *New York Times</p> <p>April 19, 2022 (updated)</p> <p><i>She Set Marathon Records in Her Sixties. Then Came the Fans.</i></p> <p>In 2019, Mariko Yugeta became the first woman older than 60 to finish a marathon in less than three hours. She's just getting started.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/MarathonRecordsInHer60s</p>
Photographs courtesy of Sue Rorke MetroWest Center for Independent Living	 
	 
	 



World Autism Month

- 3. The White House**
 April 1, 2022
A Proclamation on World Autism Awareness Day, 2022
 On World Autism Awareness Day, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the more than 5 million Americans who live with autism are able to make the most of their talents and participate fully in our society, and we celebrate the contributions autistic Americans have made to our families, our communities, our Nation, and the world. . .
 Today and every day, we honor autistic people and celebrate the meaningful and measureless ways they contribute to our Nation. We applaud the millions of educators, advocates, family members, caregivers, and others who support them. As we continue to build a better America, we reaffirm our promise to provide Americans with autism the support they need to live independently, fully participate in their communities, and lead fulfilling lives of dignity and respect.
<https://tinyurl.com/WhiteHouseAutism>
- 4. United Nations**
 April 2, 2022
Secretary-General's message for 2022
 The United Nations supports the rights of persons with autism to fully participate in society, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 In its pledge to leave no one behind, the 2030 Agenda represents a commitment to reducing inequality through social, economic, and political inclusion for all people, including persons with disabilities. Yet many persons with autism still live in isolation, discriminated against, and disconnected from their communities, in institutions or even in their own homes.
 The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these inequalities through the loss or reduction of services at school, in homes and in the community. We need to ensure that the rights, perspectives, and well-being of persons with disabilities, including those with autism, are an integral part of building forward better from the

	<p>pandemic.</p> <p>The solution lies in more community-based support systems for persons with autism. We must also establish inclusive education systems and training programmes that enable students with autism to access the educational path of their choice. And we must make technology solutions available for persons with autism to live independently in their communities. Active consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations should be at the centre of these efforts.</p> <p>On this World Autism Awareness Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to an inclusive, equitable and sustainable world for persons with autism.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/UnitedNationsAutism</p> <p>5. Association of University Centers on Disabilities April 1, 2022 <i>Autism Acceptance Month</i> The month has traditionally been framed as Autism Awareness Month and April 2nd as World or International Autism Awareness Day. AUCD has shifted from "Awareness" to "Acceptance" in our April messaging. This shift reflects input from autistic and other community leaders, as well as our commitment to sharing how AUCD network members are advancing support, research, evidence-based interventions, inclusiveness, and advocacy for the human and civil rights of all people with ASD/DD. We hope you will consider joining us in messaging that goes beyond awareness and promotes full acceptance and appreciation of the many contributions of autistic people.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/AUCDAutism</p>
DignityMA Endorsements	<p>6. S.416 An Act strengthening the Attorney General’s tools to protect nursing home residents and other patients from abuse and neglect Endorsed by 59 Dignity Massachusetts participants See: https://tinyurl.com/S416Endorsement</p>
Reports	<p>7. The Commonwealth Fund April 21, 2022 <i>How Discrimination in Health Care Affects Older Americans, and What Health Systems and Providers Can Do</i> In this damning new report, 1 in 4 older Americans of color say health care providers treated them unfairly because of their race or ethnicity, a far higher proportion than people in 10 other high-income countries. Discrimination can include dismissing a patient’s symptoms or concerns, offering different treatment depending on insurance type, or not providing care in a patient’s preferred language. The Commonwealth Fund survey of adults over 60 found that among Americans who experienced discrimination, more than a quarter said their care suffered because of it. Almost half of this group said they were in fair or poor health, twice the level of those who did not report discrimination. Three-quarters have three or more chronic conditions and they are far more likely to feel socially isolated, have a mental health diagnosis, or face economic problems.</p> <p>Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older adults in the United States are more likely to report racial and ethnic discrimination in the health system exists, compared with their peers in 10 other high-income countries. • In the U.S., one in four Black and Latinx/Hispanic adults age 60 and older

	<p>reported that they have been treated unfairly or have felt that their health concerns were not taken seriously by health professionals because of their racial or ethnic background.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than a quarter of U.S. older adults said they did not get the care or treatment they felt they needed because of discrimination. • U.S. older adults who have experienced discrimination in a health care setting were more likely to have worse health status, face economic hardships, and be more dissatisfied with their care than those who did not experience discrimination. <p>Policy Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote transparency and accountability by identifying instances of discrimination and publicly reporting discrimination data. • Develop medical school curricula to educate students about how the U.S. health care system has harmed patients of color and other historically marginalized communities. • Examine how current policies enable discrimination and then remove or reform those policies. • Address the lack of diversity in the U.S. health care workforce. • Provide culturally and contextually appropriate care that addresses patients' communication needs and preferences. <p>https://tinyurl.com/HCDiscriminationOlderPersons</p>
Ukraine	<p>8. Forward April 19, 2022 <i>Holocaust survivor, 91, dies while hiding in basement in Ukraine</i> Vanda Semyonovna Obiedkova previously evaded Nazi arrest at the age of 10 by hiding in a basement. . . The full account of Obiedkova's Holocaust experience is captured in a 1998 interview she did with the USC Shoah Foundation. When Russian bombardment began in early March, Obiedkova and her family moved into the basement of a neighboring store with no water, heat, or electricity. With shells raining down from the skies and snipers positioned near the closest sources of water, every trip for water was dangerous. "Every time a bomb fell, the entire building shook," Larissa said. "My mother kept saying she didn't remember anything like this during the Great Patriotic War," referring to World War II. https://tinyurl.com/HolocaustSurvivorDies</p>
In-person and Virtual Conference	<p>9. The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care 2022 Consumer Voice In-Person & Virtual Conference In-person: Baltimore, Maryland November 14-16, 2022 Virtual conference programming: December 8-9, 2022 Join us in Baltimore, Maryland November 14-16, 2022 at the Lord Baltimore Hotel to reconnect in person. Over the pandemic, we've learned how important it is to connect face-to-face, build relationships, learn from each other, and create connections. With COVID-19 safety measures in mind, we are ready to come together again as a community of advocates. For those unable to join us in person, virtual conference programming will be December 8-9, 2022. New live sessions, as well as select recorded programs from the in-person conference will be available. (Note: Registration to the in-person conference also gives you access to the virtual programming.)</p>

	<p>Stay tuned for registration information for the in-person and virtual components of the 2022 Consumer Voice Conference.</p>
Webinars / Online sessions	<p>10. Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability at Cornell University Saturday, May 7, 2022, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. <i>Healthcare Access & the ADA: Intersectional Considerations</i> Disability is a type of diversity. And, there is a lot of diversity <i>within</i> the disability community, as people of all ages, beliefs, backgrounds, and identities have disabilities. The Northeast ADA Center, in collaboration with the National Action Network's Disability Committee, is offering three virtual* events about Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), LGBTQ+, and other marginalized people with disabilities. Facilitator: Dr. LaWanda Cook LaWanda Cook is a Senior Extension Associate with the Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability at Cornell University. In this role, she designs and delivers training on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and conducts research related to disability identity, well-being, and the inclusion of people with disabilities in work and leisure settings. Her work explores the intersection of disability with other characteristics such as race, gender, and age, as well as concerns such as workplace bullying and harassment. Live captions will be provided. Accommodation requests must be made no less than 10 days prior to the event. Registration: https://tinyurl.com/HealthcareAccessADA</p> <p>11. Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities National Training Center (MHDD-NTC) Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. <i>Parenting with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities</i> This webinar will focus on the experiences of parents and families who have lived experience with co-occurring mental health and developmental disabilities. They will discuss their families, the strategies they used, and assistance they received to become successful parents, but also the bias and discrimination they have experienced. Learning Objectives: After the completion of the webinar, participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define eugenics and its relationship to the forced sterilization of people with disabilities in the United States; 2. Identify instances of bias and discrimination against individuals with disabilities becoming parents; 3. Identify successful strategies, including the use of assistive technology, in becoming successful parents; and 4. Identify barriers parents with disabilities face in supporting their families, especially if their children have disabilities themselves <p>Register for the webinar.</p>
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
Assisted Living	<p>12. Salem News April 21, 2022</p>

	<p><i>Assisted living residents given 90 days to move out</i></p> <p>The new owners of an assisted living facility in downtown Beverly are forcing residents to permanently move out in 90 days.</p> <p>Motif by Monarch, the former Landmark at Ocean View, told its 67 residents in a letter this week that they must move out by July 19 because of plans to renovate the building. The company said it originally planned to renovate the building without closing it, but decided that the level of disruption necessitates closing for at least a year.</p> <p>“We understand that this situation will impact each person reading this in a variety of ways, and we want you to know that we do not make this decision lightly and we are committed to support you through the process,” Ross Dingman, the company’s managing partner, wrote.</p> <p>Paul Lanzikos, the state’s former elder affairs secretary and former executive director of North Shore Elder Services, called the 90-day notice “outrageous.” He said he has never heard of an assisted living facility forcing all of its residents to move out. “This is not any average population that’s being displaced,” said Lanzikos, who lives in Beverly. “These are frail, at-risk individuals and disrupting them in even relatively modest ways can be problematic.”</p> <p>The company has not said whether residents will be able to move back once the renovations are done. . .</p> <p>A spokesperson for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, which certifies assisted living residences, said Monarch notified the agency on Monday of its intention to temporarily close.</p> <p>The spokesperson said the state does not have authority to enforce lease agreements, which are private contracts between the resident and the facility. The spokesperson said assisted living facilities are private residences and, unlike skilled nursing facilities and rest homes, do not receive public funding from the state. Residents and families can file complaints with the state’s assisted living ombudsman program.</p> <p>The company said it is unsure if it will accept PACE residents at the Beverly facility when it reopens. PACE is the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly that is administered by Mass Health and Medicare. The company said it is working with PACE’s third-party administrators to identify potential placement for the current PACE residents in Beverly.</p> <p>Monarch said it will cover the costs associated with moving residents’ personal items if the move is within a 15-mile radius. The company said it is working with its employees to stay at the Beverly facility for the next three months and said it would “compensate them appropriately for doing so.”</p> <p>https://salemnews-cnhi.newsmemory.com/?publink=1d80c79a7_1348429</p>
Housing	<p>13. *Los Angeles Times</p> <p>April 19, 2022</p> <p><i>Opposition mounts against Newsom’s plan for court-ordered treatment of homeless people</i></p> <p>Six weeks after Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled a far-reaching effort to push more people into court-ordered treatment for severe mental illness and addiction, homeless advocates are calling it legally misguided and immoral as the proposal’s first public hearing at the state Capitol has been delayed.</p> <p>More than three dozen organizations and individuals, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Disability Rights California and the Western Center on Law and</p>

	<p>Poverty, signed an April 12 opposition letter raising serious concerns with Assembly Bill 2830, one of two nearly identical measures moving through the Legislature to implement Newsom’s Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court... Newsom touted the CARE Court framework last month as an innovative strategy to guide an estimated 7,000 to 12,000 people into housing and much-needed treatment. Under the proposal, family members, behavioral health care providers and first responders, among others, could petition a civil judge to initiate a CARE plan for eligible individuals who lack medical decision-making capacity. . .</p> <p>In their 14-page letter, the advocates blasted the proposal as involuntary and coercive treatment that would strip individuals of their personal liberties and “perpetuate institutional racism and worsen health disparities.” They said CARE Court “flies in the face of any evidence-based approach to ending homelessness” because it prioritizes mental health services — not housing — as the initial step toward recovery, which they said would deviate from California’s “housing first” principles. https://tinyurl.com/CourtCareOpposed</p> <p>14. *Boston Globe</p> <p>April 18, 2022 (updated)</p> <p><i>Pandemic’s lesson for many older folks: Stay in your home as long as you can</i></p> <p>Neighbors and technology are helping, but tough obstacles remain</p> <p>Now, as the pandemic grinds into its third year, a loose-knit band of tech gurus, gerontology researchers, and volunteer-powered elder support groups, called “villages,” is seeking to overcome the obstacles to aging in place. Among the toughest: a worsening shortage of home care workers, who can assist the oldest residents with walking, dressing, or showering. . .</p> <p>[MIT’s AgeLab] is designing prototypes of “smart homes” for older residents, equipped with social robots, voice-activated speakers that give medication reminders, motion sensors embedded in carpets to detect falls, and intelligent doorbells that double as security cameras. The innovations are being adopted piecemeal, but over time they’ll be integrated, and today’s comparatively primitive devices and wearables will go the way of the horse and buggy. . .</p> <p>At the same time, the grass-roots village movement — a network of community groups where volunteers in their 60s and 70s help older neighbors live independently — is seeing a fresh burst of interest, 20 years after the first such group, Beacon Hill Village, started in Boston. . .</p> <p>Still, the new technologies and community resolve to help has only gone so far to overcome the care worker shortage, dearth of transportation options for many older folks, and lack of public investment in home health services that make it so difficult to age in place in Massachusetts and across the country. . .</p> <p>Even if residents can afford home health care, finding it isn’t easy. The average hourly base salary in Massachusetts is \$15.95 for a personal care assistant and \$20.71 for a certified nursing assistant, the job site Indeed reports. With wages that low, care workers can often earn more working in fast-food restaurants or warehouses. https://tinyurl.com/PandemicsLessons</p>
Behavioral Health	<p>15. STAT Investigations</p> <p>April 21, 2022</p> <p><i>A psychedelic therapist allegedly took millions from a Holocaust survivor, highlighting worries about elders taking hallucinogens</i></p> <p>Research on psychedelics has brought these drugs closer to legalization as treatments for depression, PTSD, and other psychiatric conditions. But a STAT</p>

	<p>investigation highlights the vulnerability of older people who take these mind-altering drugs to financial abuse, and the need for clear regulations around both how they're used and the people supervising patients.</p> <p>Clinical trials testing psychedelics involve therapists meeting with patients before, during, and after their psychedelic experience. People who take psychedelics report they create feelings of emotional intimacy, heightening the susceptibility that already exists between patients and health care providers. Moreover, the drugs are being explored as a way to ease patients' anxiety at the end of life. And yet it's unclear whether psychedelic therapists will be required to meet the same licensing standards as other therapists such as psychiatrists and psychologists. . .</p> <p>Despite the conflicting accounts, it's clear there's a critical need for strong regulations to protect users of psychedelic medicines against potential abuse, experts told STAT. Elderly people, especially those who experience cognitive decline, are at risk of being taken advantage of financially, they said. "These are frail, at-risk older adults who are not as able to advocate for themselves," said Maust. "They're absolutely at a power disadvantage." . .</p> <p>Patients in their 80s are considered a high-risk population for conditions such as delirium, said Boris Heifets, an anesthesiologist and neuroscience researcher at Stanford who studies psychedelics. And the combination of prescription medications alone would likely interfere with a patient's mental state. "This is a very unusual cocktail of things to be taking at the same time, especially in someone who's older, with diminished cognitive status, who's frail," he said.</p> <p>Evaluating someone's ability to make a decision is nuanced, and depends on the situation, said Gill Livingston, professor of psychiatry of older people at University College London. They might be able to choose between menu items but not how to invest, for example. . .</p> <p>If psychedelics are approved for widespread medical use, potentially millions of people who have experienced trauma will be able to take these drugs as treatment. There will need to be government agencies to regulate practitioners, said DeLiema. "There shouldn't be all these programs that pop up at these for-profit colleges to teach people how to do this when really they're lining their own pockets," she said. "Training and licensure are not just ways for these trade organizations to just make money."</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/PsychedelicConcerns</p>
Covid-19	<p>16. Washington Post April 20, 2022 (updated) <i>Biden administration to appeal ruling striking down transit mask mandate</i> The Biden administration will appeal a federal judge's decision that struck down the mask mandate on public transportation, officials announced Wednesday. . . "It is CDC's continuing assessment that at this time an order requiring masking in the indoor transportation corridor remains necessary for the public health," the CDC said in a statement Wednesday evening. "CDC believes this is a lawful order, well within CDC's legal authority to protect public health." https://tinyurl.com/AppealRuling</p> <p>17. *Boston Herald April 20, 2022 (updated) <i>New omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 on the rise in New England, COVID strain appears to be 'even more transmissible'</i> The subvariant accounts for 20% of new cases.</p>

Another omicron subvariant that's apparently "even more transmissible" than the last one is gaining steam around the region, as COVID-19 case counts continue to rise.

The subvariant BA.2.12.1 — an offshoot of the BA.2 omicron "stealth" variant — now accounts for 20% of new COVID cases in New England, according to the CDC tracker. That's almost double from 11.5% during the previous week. . .

Virus cases had been plummeting in Massachusetts following the omicron surge but then started rising several weeks ago as the BA.2 omicron "stealth" variant took hold. The daily average for cases in the Bay State has jumped from about 600 infections in mid-March to nearly 2,000 cases last week.

<https://tinyurl.com/NewOmicronSubvariant>

18. NPR Shots

April 19, 2022

The judge who tossed mask mandate misunderstood public health law, legal experts say

When [U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle](#) tossed out the federal government's transportation mask mandate on Monday, she relied in part on her interpretation of the term "sanitation."

The 10-letter word can be found in the Public Health Service Act, [a sprawling 1944 law](#) that gave the federal government certain powers to respond to public health emergencies. . .

Specifically, the law says that if the government is trying to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, it can "provide for such inspection, fumigation, disinfection, sanitation, pest extermination, destruction of animals or articles found to be so infected or contaminated as to be sources of dangerous infection to human beings, and other measures, as in his judgment may be necessary. . .

Mizelle's opinion also restricts the CDC's ability to respond to public health emergencies in ways it deems appropriate, and if the opinion is upheld by a federal appeals court or the U.S. Supreme Court, legal experts warn it could hobble the government's ability to control future outbreaks.

<https://tinyurl.com/TossedMaskMandate>

19. Kaiser Health News

April 15, 2022

How the Test-to-Treat Pillar of the US Covid Strategy Is Failing Patients

The federal "test-to-treat" program, [announced in March](#), is meant to reduce covid hospitalizations and deaths by quickly getting antiviral pills to people who test positive. But even as cases rise again, many Americans don't have access to the program.

Pfizer's [Paxlovid](#) and Merck's [Lagevrio](#) are both designed to be started within five days of someone's first symptoms. They're for people who are at high risk of developing severe illness but are not currently hospitalized because of covid-19.

Millions of [chronically ill](#), disabled, and older Americans are eligible for the treatments, and Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health [said April 11](#) that more people may qualify soon. . .

The federal government has set aside nearly 400,000 courses of the antivirals for its federal pharmacy partners — about a quarter of the [total supply](#) since the program

	<p>began in March.</p> <p>Although the cost of the pills is covered by the federal government, obtaining a prescription at the pharmacies that dominate the program can be expensive. Though CVS does not charge symptomatic uninsured people for on-site covid tests, MinuteClinics charge upwards of \$100 for in-person or telehealth appointments to examine patients and prescribe an antiviral, if needed. People without insurance, whose health plans don't cover visits to the clinics, or who have high-deductible plans must shoulder the full cost of the appointment.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/TestToTreat</p>
Disability topics	<p>20. *New York Times</p> <p>April 19, 2022</p> <p><i>In 'Deaf Utopia,' Nyle DiMarco Dreams of Integrating the Deaf and Hearing Worlds</i></p> <p>Nyle DiMarco's new memoir, "Deaf Utopia," begins in the womb. The year is 1989 and his mother, Donna, is hours into labor, straining to communicate with the doctor as he prepares to perform a C-section. Donna is Deaf, but there's no sign language interpreter present; it would be another year before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandated that hospitals provide them. So, it was by reading the doctor's lips and the notes he wrote out by hand that she gleaned that her newborn twins, Nyle and Nico, were both Deaf too, the fourth such generation in the DiMarco family. . .</p> <p>Genuinely informative, and rather ambitious as far as celebrity memoirs go, the book's hybrid structure came naturally to DiMarco. He does not see himself not as some kind of unicorn, that rare Deaf celebrity to gain a foothold in the hearing world, but as part of an intergenerational struggle. In "Deaf Utopia," he recalls his mother's ongoing disputes with his elementary schoolteachers, who rejected sign language in favor of oral instruction — a tradition with a particularly harmful lineage in Deaf education. His grandfather would later file suit against a hospital that made insufficient efforts to provide him with an interpreter during a stay in the ICU. And his uncle was denied employment with New York's Department of Sanitation on account of his hearing loss, though they relented and offered him a job after he sued. DiMarco's own resolve was tested throughout his childhood and then again on "America's Next Top Model," an experience he describes as "four months of pure probation."</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/DeafUtopia</p> <p>21. *The Washington Post</p> <p>April 13, 2022</p> <p><i>Md. grant will help students with disabilities set back by pandemic</i></p> <p>Jovay Sweeney, a 21-year-old Hyattsville, Md., resident with cerebral palsy, had been making good progress toward someday living on her own. She had practiced answering questions for a job interview, and learned how to dress for a job, too. But when the coronavirus pandemic forced the D.C. region to shut down in-person schooling, Sweeney's learning nearly stopped, said her mother, Karen Sweeney. More than two years later, the family is hoping a local nonprofit's program can help make up for lost time.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/HelpStudentsWithDisabilities</p> <p>22. Parkinson's Foundation Science News</p> <p><i>The Unmet Needs of Women with Parkinson's</i></p>

	<p>Forty percent of the people living with Parkinson's disease (PD) worldwide are women. Right now, in the U.S. there are more than 400,000 women living with PD. To this day, women are woefully underrepresented in PD research. With the limited research we do have, compared to men with Parkinson's, women with PD experience:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Different motor and non-motor symptoms 2. Different disease risk factors 3. Different treatment side effects 4. More challenges with access to healthcare delivery 5. Less social support <p>https://tinyurl.com/WomenWithParkinsons</p>
Longevity	<p>23. New York Times (free access) October 24, 2012 <i>The Island Where People Forget to Die</i> The big aha for me, having studied populations of the long-lived for nearly a decade, is how the factors that encourage longevity reinforce one another over the long term. For people to adopt a healthful lifestyle, I have become convinced, they need to live in an ecosystem, so to speak, that makes it possible. As soon as you take culture, belonging, purpose or religion out of the picture, the foundation for long healthy lives collapses. The power of such an environment lies in the mutually reinforcing relationships among lots of small nudges and default choices. There's no silver bullet to keep death and the diseases of old age at bay. If there's anything close to a secret, it's silver buckshot. https://tinyurl.com/IslandForgetToDie</p>
	*May require registration before accessing article.
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmoore8473@charter.net.</p>
Websites	<p>Association of University Centers on Disabilities https://www.aucd.org/template/index.cfm</p> <p>The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is a membership organization that supports and promotes a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs. AUCD supports a national network through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership on major social problems affecting all people living with developmental or other disabilities or special health needs • Advocacy with Congress and executive branch agencies that fund and regulate programs used by people with disabilities • Networking and partnering with other national organizations to advance the network's national agendas • Promoting communication within the network and with other groups by collecting, organizing, and disseminating data on network activities and accomplishments • Technical assistance provision on a broad range of topics
Previously recommended websites	<p>The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/. Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i>.</p>

Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/ .
Nursing Home Closures	Closure Notices and Relocation Plans available at: https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/
State Budget	<p>Commonwealth of Massachusetts</p> <p><i>Proposed Amendments to the House Ways and Means Budget</i> April 15, 2022</p> <p><i>House Ways and Means Budget</i> April 13, 2022</p> <p>Excerpts from Rep. Aaron Michlewitz’s, Chair of the House Ways and Means, transmittal letter:</p> <p>“With this document, the House Committee on Ways and Means presents its recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2023 General Appropriations Act. . .</p> <p>In January, the House and Senate Committees on Ways & Means, working closely with the office of Administration & Finance, agreed to a consensus revenue number for FY23 in the amount of \$36.92 billion, a 2.7% growth over the revised FY22 projections. Of this total amount, \$29.78 billion is available for the FY23 budget after the transfers to the pension fund, MBTA, and other agencies. . .</p> <p>In FY22, one of the main funding priorities of the House was in housing and homelessness. That budget funded programs like the Rental Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) and Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) at historically high levels. As we move into FY23, we plan to continue to prioritize these needs and build on previous investments to support individuals, families, and youth in this budget. This FY23 budget funds RAFT at \$140 million, MRVP at \$150 million, \$100 million for programs for Homeless Individuals, \$92 million for Public Housing, and \$59.4 million for HomeBASE.</p> <p>Our investments in healthcare comprise a significant portion of the budget. Due to the federal public health emergency, MassHealth has received enhanced federal funding for money spent on services, often referred to as Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). In order to receive this funding, MassHealth is unable to re-determine eligibility for members until July of 2022, at the earliest. As a result, the House budget includes \$18.406 billion in spending to fully fund the MassHealth caseload, a \$595 million gross increase over H.2. The costs of this increase are more than covered by the FMAP funds the Commonwealth receives and as a result the net cost for MassHealth decreases.</p> <p>The House remains committed to expanding treatment options and providing resources for those struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. We have focused on prevention, intervention, and long-term recovery. This budget will invest \$188.6 million into the Substance Use Disorder Trust Fund, allowing individuals across the addiction spectrum to access the services they need.”</p> <p>Highlighted components:</p> <p><u>MassHealth</u></p> <p>As the Commonwealth has provided safety net services to those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most important investments has been ensuring that low-income residents have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. MassHealth has seen its caseload grow over the course of pandemic, now covering close to 2.2 million lives. The House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposal includes \$18.406B for MassHealth programmatic spending to fully support the increase in caseload during the federal public health emergency, ensuring that residents who need coverage are able to access it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invests \$645M in spending for FY23 to fully fund MassHealth caseload for the remainder of the Federal Public Health Emergency • Provides \$37M in spending to expand the eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program to

	<p>250% of the Federal Poverty Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides \$27M for nursing facility rates to be set using 2019 calendar year costs, an average increase of \$4.20 per day Prepares MassHealth for the introduction of a new 1115 waiver in FY23 <p><u>Department of Transitional Assistance</u></p> <p>The Department of Transitional Assistance works to ease the burdens on the Commonwealth's most vulnerable, ensuring that children, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed and the underemployed have access to the services and the benefits that they need to achieve personal economic self-sufficiency and a better quality of life. The Department reaches one in eight Massachusetts residents through its economic assistance, food assistance, and workforce training programs, and the House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposal would protect and preserve these standards of support through the post-pandemic recovery and help guarantee opportunity for every resident of the Commonwealth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides \$3.5M for Two Generation Economic Mobility Programs Provides \$343.2M for Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children Provides \$137.2M for Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children Provides \$10M for Healthy Incentives Program <p><u>Department of Public Health</u></p> <p>The Department of Public Health aims to ensure that all people of the Commonwealth remain healthy by promoting wellness and establishing health and safety regulations to prevent injury, illness, and premature death. The Department of Public Health also strives to eliminate health disparities within the Commonwealth by acknowledging and addressing social determinants of health. The House Committee on Ways and Means supports the Department's behavioral health efforts and proposes increases for the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Early Intervention Services, and School Based Health Programs to fund workforce development initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides \$11.9M for chronic disease prevention <p><u>Department of Mental Health</u></p> <p>As the Commonwealth's mental health authority, the Department of Mental Health provides community-based and continuing care inpatient services for over 20,000 individuals throughout the Commonwealth. The Department serves the severely, persistently mentally ill with the goal of enabling as many individuals as possible to live, work, and participate in their communities. The House Committee on Ways and Means Fiscal Year 2023 budget proposal continues this effort by supporting emergency department diversion boarding and funding a new loan forgiveness program to address workforce retention and development issues within clinical behavioral health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides \$514.3M for adult support services Provides \$111.8M for child and adolescent mental health services Provides \$10M for emergency department diversion programs Provides \$20M for a DMH loan forgiveness program to support workforce development among clinical behavioral health professionals <p><u>Executive Office of Elder Affairs</u></p> <p>The Department of Elder Affairs provides services that promote independence and sustain a high quality of life for elders with support to their families and caregivers. These services range from community-based services and supports as well as nutrition programs, protective services, and housing, which are provided through a network of Aging Service Access Points and Councils on Aging Across the state. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these services have become even more critical to keep older adults healthy. The House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposes a funding level of \$715.6M to ensure that these important services continue while recognizing the unprecedented, continued growth in the elder population and desire to age in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides \$284M for the Community Choices Program, which provides MassHealth-eligible elders with nursing facility levels of need with home care support Provides \$40.4M to maintain higher rates for home health aides and homemakers that
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	<p>provide vital services to older adults in our communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides \$22M for Grants to Councils on Aging to maintain the \$12 per elder funding formula • Provides \$2.5M in funding for Elder Mental Health Outreach Teams, which link in-crisis elders with a wide variety of behavioral health services. • Maintains \$1.6M in funding for 24 Elder Supportive Housing Sites • Provides \$1M in funding to support the SHINE program to assist older adults in choosing and enrolling in benefits as well as book vaccine appointments during the pandemic <p><u>Department of Veterans' Services</u></p> <p>The Department of Veterans' Services provides veterans with access to programs and services throughout the Commonwealth. The Department provides educational opportunities, outreach centers, service benefits, as well as personal care services through the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides \$68.2M for Veterans' Benefit Payments • Provides \$79M for the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke • Provides \$8.9M for Veterans' Outreach Centers • Provides \$4.2M for assistance to homeless veterans <p><u>Department of Housing and Community Development</u></p> <p>The Department of Housing and Community Development provides affordable housing options and essential financial support to vulnerable families and communities in Massachusetts. A safe housing environment provides a solid foundation from which families and individuals can lead stable, successful lives. As such, the House Committee on Ways and Means budget proposal preserves or expands funding for all emergency homeless assistance programs, as well as homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing for both families and individuals. The Fiscal Year 2023 budget includes \$853M to ensure that these important programs continue to support and provide safe housing for thousands of individuals and families across the Commonwealth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides \$218.2M for the Emergency Assistance Family Shelter Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Includes immunosuppressed and immunocompromised shelter assistance • Provides \$150M for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Also carries forward \$21.9M in unspent funds from FY22 • Provides \$92M for Public Housing Authorities • Provides \$100M for Homeless Individuals Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Includes \$90M within the item for long-term shelter providers • Provides \$59.4M for the HomeBASE Program, extending program benefits from one to two years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Includes immunosuppressed and immunocompromised rental assistance • Provides \$140M for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) Program • Provides \$12.5M for Rental Subsidies to Eligible Department of Mental Health Clients • Provides \$13.7M for the Alternative Voucher Housing Program (AVHP) • Carries forward \$5.6M in unspent funds from FY22 • Provides \$9.7M for Housing Consumer Education Centers • Provides \$5M for Rapid Re-Housing Programs for Homeless Individuals • Provides \$6.4M for the Home and Healthy for Good Program • Provides \$5M for the Service Coordinators Program • Provides \$2M for a Housing Assistance for Reentry Transition pilot program <p><i>Governor's Proposed Budget for FY 2023</i> January 26, 2022</p> <p>The annual budget process begins each year when the Governor files recommendations as a bill with the House of Representatives. Under the state Constitution, the Governor must submit a proposal by the 4th Wednesday of January or, in the event of a new term, within five weeks later. This bill is called House 1 or "House 2" depending on the year.</p> <p>https://malegislature.gov/Budget</p>
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Nursing homes with admission freezes	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</p> <p><i>Temporary admissions freeze</i></p> <p>On November 6, the state announced that it would require certain high risk nursing homes and rest homes to temporarily stop all new admissions to protect the health and safety of residents and prevent further COVID-19 transmission.</p> <p>Stopping admissions enables homes to focus resources such as staff and PPE on the health and safety of its current residents and enables the home to stabilize before taking on new residents. Homes that meet certain criteria will be required to stop any new admissions until the Department of Public Health has determined that conditions have improved, and the facility is ready to safely care for new residents. The Commonwealth will work closely with homes during this time and provide supports as needed to ensure resident health and safety.</p> <p>There are a number of reasons why a facility may be required to stop admissions, and the situation in each facility is different. Some of the factors the state uses to make this decision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of new COVID-19 cases within the facility• Staffing levels• Failure to report a lack of adequate PPE, supplies, or staff• Infection control survey results• Surveillance testing non-compliance <p>Facilities are required to notify residents’ designated family members and/or representative when the facility is subject to an admissions freeze. In addition, a list of facilities that are currently required to stop new admissions and the reason for this admissions freeze will be updated on Friday afternoons, and as needed when the Department of Public of Health determines a facility can be removed from the list.</p> <p>Updated on April 14, 2022</p> <table><tr><th>Name of Facility</th><th>City/Town</th><th>Date of Freeze</th><th>Qualifying Factor</th></tr><tr><td>Bear Mountain at Worcester</td><td>Worcester</td><td>3/29/2022</td><td>Infection control</td></tr><tr><td>Caldwell Home Extended Care</td><td>Fitchburg</td><td>2/9/22</td><td>Noncompliance Testing</td></tr><tr><td>Highview of Northampton</td><td>Northampton</td><td>3/15/22</td><td>Infection control</td></tr><tr><td>The Meadows of Central Massachusetts</td><td>Leicester</td><td>4/12/22</td><td>Infection control</td></tr><tr><td>Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home</td><td>Melrose</td><td>12/18/21</td><td>Noncompliance Testing</td></tr><tr><td>Plymouth Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center</td><td>Plymouth</td><td>10/27/21</td><td>New Cases</td></tr></table>	Name of Facility	City/Town	Date of Freeze	Qualifying Factor	Bear Mountain at Worcester	Worcester	3/29/2022	Infection control	Caldwell Home Extended Care	Fitchburg	2/9/22	Noncompliance Testing	Highview of Northampton	Northampton	3/15/22	Infection control	The Meadows of Central Massachusetts	Leicester	4/12/22	Infection control	Oosterman's Melrose Rest Home	Melrose	12/18/21	Noncompliance Testing	Plymouth Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center	Plymouth	10/27/21	New Cases
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List of Special Focus Facilities	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</p> <p><i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i></p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</p> <p>CMS has published a new list of Special Focus Facilities (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and candidate nursing homes.</p> <p>To be considered for the SFF program, a facility must have a history (at least 3 years) of serious quality issues. These nursing facilities generally have more deficiencies than the average facility, and more serious problems such as harm or injury to residents. Special Focus Facilities have more frequent surveys and are subject to progressive enforcement until it either graduates from the program or is terminated from Medicare and/or Medicaid.</p> <p>This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing</p>																												

home.

What can advocates do with this information?

- Include the list of facilities in your area/state when providing information to consumers who are looking for a nursing home. Include an explanation of the SFF program and the candidate list.
- Post the list on your program's/organization's website (along with the explanation noted above).
- Encourage current residents and families to check the list to see if their facility is included.
- Urge residents and families in a candidate facility to ask the administrator what is being done to improve care.
- Suggest that resident and family councils invite the administrator to a council meeting to talk about what the facility is doing to improve care, ask for ongoing updates, and share any council concerns.
- For long-term care ombudsmen representatives: Meet with the administrator to discuss what the facility is doing to address problems and share any resources that might be helpful.

Massachusetts facilities listed (updated March 30, 2022)

Newly added to the listing

- None

Massachusetts facilities not improved

- Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough
<https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills>

Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement

- Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro
<https://tinyurl.com/AttleboroHealthcare>

Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program

- None

Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing

- Hillcrest Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Pittsfield
<https://tinyurl.com/HillcrestCommons>
- Medway Country Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation
<https://tinyurl.com/MedwayManor>
- Parkway Health and Rehabilitation Center
<https://tinyurl.com/ParkwayHealthCenter>
- RegalCare at Worcester
No website
- Revolution Charwell
<https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell>
- Vantage at South Hadley
No website
- Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Amesbury
<https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury>
- Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Revere
<https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere>
- Braintree Manor Healthcare
<https://www.nextstephpc.com/braintree>
- Hathaway Manor Extended Care
<https://hathawaymanor.org/>
<https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram>

<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i> Data updated November 2021 This app uses data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Fines are listed for the past three years if a home has made partial or full payment (fines under appeal are not included). Information on deficiencies comes from a home's last three inspection cycles, or roughly three years in total. The number of COVID-19 cases is since May 8, 2020, when homes were required to begin reporting this information to the federal government (some homes may have included data on earlier cases). Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table> <tr> <th># reported</th><th>Deficiency Tag</th></tr> <tr> <td>233</td><td>B</td></tr> <tr> <td>70</td><td>C</td></tr> <tr> <td>6,739</td><td>D</td></tr> <tr> <td>1,754</td><td>E</td></tr> <tr> <td>452</td><td>F</td></tr> <tr> <td>517</td><td>G</td></tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>H</td></tr> <tr> <td>59</td><td>J</td></tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>K</td></tr> </table>	# reported	Deficiency Tag	233	B	70	C	6,739	D	1,754	E	452	F	517	G	23	H	59	J	22	K
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<p>Nursing Home Compare</p>	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i> Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information on the that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff turnover: The percentage of nursing staff as well as the number of administrators who have stopped working at a nursing home over the past 12-month period. • Weekend staff: The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period. <p>Posting of this information was required as part of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010. In many facilities, staffing is lower on weekends, often meaning residents have to wait longer or may not receive all the care they need. High turnover means that staff are less likely to know the residents, recognize changes in condition, or implement preferred methods of providing care. All of this contributes to the quality-of-care residents receive and their quality of life. https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</p>																				
<p>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i> <i>Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</i> Table of Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Daily Dashboard • COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report 																				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional COVID-19 Data • CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data 		
DignityMA Call to Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. Download the DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA. • Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage Social Media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content 		
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org		
Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom. Please contact workgroup lead for more information	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email
	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com
	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	baskinfrank19@gmail.com
	Communications	Pricilla O'Reilly Samantha VanSchoick Lachlan Forrow	prisoreilly@gmail.com svanschoick@cil.org lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu
	Facilities (Nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living)	Arlene Germain	agermain@manhr.org
	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	mcoffin@centerlw.org
	Housing	Shaya French	sfrench@bostoncil.org
	Legislative	Richard Moore	rmoore8743@charter.net
	Topical Conversations	Lachan Forrow	lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu
	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
The Dignity Digest	For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i> : https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke		

Note of thanks	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dick Moore • Sue Rorke <p>Special thanks to Paul Spooner with the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.</p> <p><i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to paul.lanzikos@gmail.com.</i></p>
<p><i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them. The information presented in “The Dignity Digest” is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.</i></p> <p><i>Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: https://dignityalliancema.org/the-tuesday-digest/</i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>	