



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 112

October 31, 2022

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

*May require registration before accessing article.

Spotlight

In the Spotlight are two blogposts published this week by Dave Kingsley of Tallgrass Economics. Dave has been engaged in analyzing the byzantine system of long-term care economics, financing, and politics since the early 1980's. He is one of the principals of Tallgrass Economics, based in the Kansas City, whose purpose is demonstrating "how economies [should] best serve the needs of "the people," rather the needs of a tiny, wealthy minority. (<https://tallgrasseconomics.org/about>).

The blogs lay out how corporate entities and investor groups which control a sizable portion of nursing homes in this country take advantage of ways to structure business operations, the vagaries of Medicare and Medicaid funding, and lax public oversight. The blogs, *The Ensign Group, America's Largest Nursing Home Corporation, Reports Strong Third Quarter 2022 Results* and *In the Nursing Home Business, Medical Care Versus Financial Performance Is an Important Dimension*, have been posted on <https://tallgrasseconomics.org/>.

While the analysis is focused on The Ensign Group (Nasdaq: ENSG), a California based entity which has 268 health care operations in 13 states and over 400 subsidiaries incorporated in Nevada, the issues are ones found throughout the country including Massachusetts.

Quotes of the Week

In New York City, about [a third of residents over 65 live alone](#), at risk of becoming socially isolated — a condition that carries a health risk comparable to [smoking 15 cigarettes a day](#).

*The Mysterious Patient in Room 23: The Hermit Baroness, *New York Times, October 25, 2022 (updated),*

<https://tinyurl.com/MysteriousPatientRoom23>

From a health perspective, guardianship may indeed benefit her, by allowing her to move to a facility where she can regain some capacity to walk and swallow. Yet it

is an involuntary measure that strips away her privacy and autonomy, two ideals she seems to have treasured above most others.

*The Mysterious Patient in Room 23: The Hermit Baroness, *New York Times, October 25, 2022 (updated),*

<https://tinyurl.com/MysteriousPatientRoom23>

Social isolation was associated with about a 50% increased risk of dementia and other serious medical conditions.

Loneliness and Social Isolation Linked to Serious Health Conditions, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

<https://tinyurl.com/CDCLonelinessSocialIsolation>

“You use carrots, you use incentives, you use sticks, you use the bully pulpit.”

*Attorney General Maura Healey, commenting on strategies to promote transit-oriented housing, NIMBYs bare their fangs at new Mass. housing law, *Boston Globe, October 26, 2022,*

<https://tinyurl.com/NIMBYsBareFangs>

“In the early days of the pandemic people were checking on each other. It’s absolutely more isolating now. It makes me feel kind of left behind and forgotten.”

Ariella Cohen Coleman, who adheres to Covid prevention guidelines, For those still trying to duck covid, the isolation is worse than ever,

**Washington Post, October 26, 2022,*

<https://tinyurl.com/IsolationWorseThanEver>

In a time when society seems to prioritize youth and physical beauty and secretly manifests ageism in the job market, older adults are often rendered invisible. Yet, today, there are more than 46 million people who are 65 and older living in the U.S., a number that will grow to almost 90 million by 2050.

Marna Clarke: Time as We Know It, SF Camerawork,

<https://tinyurl.com/TimeAsWeKnowIt>

While it’s impossible to guess how bad the flu season will be, there is one thing that does look reasonable to assume. If the current levels of circulation of influenza

	<p><i>and RSV virus continue or increase, there could be a lot of respiratory illness around Thanksgiving.</i></p> <p><i>With hospitalizations ticking up, flu season appears off to an early start,</i> STAT News, October 28, 2022, https://tinyurl.com/FluSeasonOffToEarlyStart</p>
<p>Dignity Votes 2022</p>	<p>REMINDER: GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8th</p> <p>The Consumer Voice <i>Voting Rights for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities</i> Individuals receiving long-term services and supports retain their voting rights, no matter where they live or what type of care they receive. Fortunately, there are many resources available for residents of long-term care facilities to help them register to vote, obtain mail-in ballots, and learn what to expect on the ballot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions for nursing home residents to ask to make sure you're ready to vote. • Everything you need to know about voting rules in your state including upcoming elections, registration, and mail-in ballots. • Find out what's on your ballot and learn about candidates. <p>https://tinyurl.com/ConsumerVoiceVoterRights</p> <p>Candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary State, and State Auditor Responses to questionnaires from candidates for these offices have been posted at https://dignityalliancema.org/state-candidates/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Forum with gubernatorial candidate Geoff Diehl</i> The forum, held on Wednesday, September 28, was organized by Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts, Boston Center for Independent Living, the Disability Law Center, Mass Advocates Standing Strong, Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, and the ark of Massachusetts. The transcript is posted on https://dignityalliancema.org/state-candidates/. <p>Congressional office candidates Questionnaires for congressional candidates have been distributed. Responses are being posted on https://dignityalliancema.org/congressional-candidates/ as they are received.</p> <p>State legislative candidates Questionnaires for legislative office candidates have been distributed. Responses are being posted on https://dignityalliancema.org/state-candidates/ as they are received.</p> <p>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 • Nursing Homes – Financial Responsibility • Nursing Homes – Oversight, Licensures, Closures • Nursing Homes – Small Home Model <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 • 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> <p>State Election Information</p> <p>The following websites contain useful, timely information about this year’s elections. (Source: <i>AARP Bulletin</i> July / August 2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>AARP Voter Guides</i> Information about the voting process from registration to Election Day voting locations and hours. www.aarp.org/electionguides • <i>Ballotpedia</i> Information about statewide races and ballot measures. www.ballotpedia.org • <i>OpenSecrets</i> Tracks flow of money within the electoral process. www.opensecrets.org • <i>Vote411</i> Election year information provided by the League of Women Voters. www.vote411.org • <i>Vote Smart</i> On demand detailed information about individual candidates www.votesmart.org
Request for Submission of Information	<p>1. The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network <i>Identifying Exemplary Kinship and Grandfamilies Policies, Practices, and Programs</i></p> <p>The Grandfamilies & Kinship Support Network is identifying and designating exemplary kinship and grandfamilies policies, practices, and programs, with the goal of sharing replicable strategies with others. The Network encourages applications from government agencies in states, tribes, and territories, as well as kinship navigator programs and other community-based organizations that serve kinship and grandfamilies.</p> <p>A submission may focus on a distinct policy, practice, or program, including a culturally-based or culturally-specific program, or it may incorporate elements of multiple policies, practices, and programs. Exemplary efforts that promote cross-system collaboration on behalf of kinship and grandfamilies are of particular interest.</p> <p>More information can be found on the application page link. The application deadline is Wednesday, November 16, 2022.</p> <p>Apply</p>

<p>Webinars and Online Sessions</p>	<p>2. Massachusetts Coalition for Serious Illness Care Thursday, November 3, 2022, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. <i>Seventh Annual Summit: Community and Connection in Serious Illness Care</i> Join the Massachusetts Coalition for Serious Illness Care for their Seventh Annual Summit: Community and Connection in Serious Illness Care. They're bringing together healthcare leaders from around the country to explore the need for elevating voices of patients, families, caregivers, and community members in both care delivery and research. Registration: https://tinyurl.com/mcsic2022summit</p> <p>3. City of Boston Housing Office Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m. <i>Co-Creating Boston's Future Decker: Community Forum</i> The Mayor's Office of Housing, the Boston Society for Architecture, and the Housing Innovation Lab lead a virtual meeting to discuss the future of 379 Geneva Ave. and 569 River St. Registration: https://tinyurl.com/FutureDeckerForum</p> <p>4. Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics Friday, November 11, 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. <i>Post-Election Panel: How the Midterms Could Impact Health Policy</i> How will changes in Congress affect the future of the Affordable Care Act and other pressing health care issues? What's the likely agenda for Republicans if they take the majority? Or for Democrats if they buck history and retain their narrow majority? And what happens if there is a divided congress? Our expert panel will discuss the long-term impacts of breaking news and the consequences of the election through a health policy lens. Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mollyann Brodie, PhD Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director, Public Opinion and Survey Research, Kaiser Family Foundation • Allison Hoffman, JD Professor, Law, Penn Carey Law School • Daniel Hopkins, PhD Professor, Political Science, School of Arts and Sciences; Professor, Annenberg School for Communication • David Grande, MD, MPA (moderator) Director of Policy, Penn LDI; Associate Professor, Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine <p>Register</p> <p>5. Senior Housing News Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Memory Care Challenges & Trends Memory care is fundamental to senior living success as 90+% of assisted living and memory care residents are living with some form of cognitive change. Understanding that families and residents want safety and meaningful engagement, this session will focus on the latest trends and senior living success when it comes to innovative and person-directed memory care. It will offer proven strategies to implement award-winning programs that enhance quality of life, drive outcomes and improve occupancy.</p>
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	<p>The audience will learn how to shift the memory care and resident engagement paradigm, enable true interdisciplinary collaboration, and implement a true social first approach to memory care.</p> <p>3 Learning Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how the best memory care products in the US are designed and how to operationalize them in your own community • Learn how to prioritize the key staffing aspects of a dementia inclusive community • Be able to outline strategies to initiate a social based model of dementia care, with engagement as the primary focus. <p>REGISTER NOW</p>
<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions</p>	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at:</p> <p>https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
<p>Housing</p>	<p>6. Commonwealth Magazine October 31, 2022 <i>Suburbs stymie new housing growth</i> A new report by the Boston Foundation confirmed what Boston area residents already know: There’s not enough housing in Greater Boston, and the housing is too expensive. Luc Schuster, executive director of Boston Indicators, the Boston Foundation’s research center, said a big part of the problem is there are higher income suburbs, often built near commuter rail stations, that have been reluctant to build more housing, leaving the job to a handful of communities. “The challenge is that it's really a small subset of municipalities that are doing that new housing construction,” Schuster said. “It's really predominantly metro core communities like Boston, Cambridge, Medford that are doing most of the construction.” https://tinyurl.com/BostonHousingReportCard</p> <p>7. Updates from the City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing October 27, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackson Square to Gain New Income-Restricted Housing • New Homes on Bowdoin Street • City of Boston Rental Relief Fund • Imaging the Future of Triple Deckers • Supportive Housing Division Submits HUD Application in Record Time • Application Window for \$50 million Fund Closes • Progress Continues on Blue Hill Parcels <p>https://tinyurl.com/OctoberUpdatesBostonHousing</p> <p>8. *Boston Globe October 26, 2022 <i>NIMBYs bare their fangs at new Mass. housing law</i> If communities thwart a law designed to force them to allow more housing construction, the next governor will need to take a harder line.\</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/NIMBYsBareFangs</p>
<p>Alzheimer’s and Other Dementia</p>	<p>9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <i>Alzheimer’s Disease and Healthy Aging</i></p>

	<p>BOLD NOFO (CDC-RFA-DP23-2310) The Healthy Brain Resource Center Dementia Risk Reduction 2020 State Caregiving and SCD Infographics https://tinyurl.com/AlzemiDiseaseHealthyAging</p>
Social Isolation / Loneliness	<p>10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <i>Loneliness and Social Isolation Linked to Serious Health Conditions</i> Loneliness and social isolation in older adults are serious public health risks affecting a significant number of people in the United States and putting them at risk for dementia and other serious medical conditions. A report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) points out that more than one-third of adults aged 45 and older feel lonely, and nearly one-fourth of adults aged 65 and older are considered to be socially isolated.¹ Older adults are at increased risk for loneliness and social isolation because they are more likely to face factors such as living alone, the loss of family or friends, chronic illness, and hearing loss. Loneliness is the feeling of being alone, regardless of the amount of social contact. Social isolation is a lack of social connections. Social isolation can lead to loneliness in some people, while others can feel lonely without being socially isolated. Health Risks of Loneliness Although it's hard to measure social isolation and loneliness precisely, there is strong evidence that many adults aged 50 and older are socially isolated or lonely in ways that put their health at risk. Recent studies found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social isolation significantly increased a person's risk of premature death from all causes, a risk that may rival those of smoking, obesity, and physical inactivity.¹ • Social isolation was associated with about a 50% percent increased risk of dementia.¹ • Poor social relationships (characterized by social isolation or loneliness) was associated with a 29% increased risk of heart disease and a 32% increased risk of stroke.¹ • Loneliness was associated with higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. • Loneliness among heart failure patients was associated with a nearly 4 times increased risk of death, 68% increased risk of hospitalization, and 57% increased risk of emergency department visits.¹ <p>https://tinyurl.com/CDCLonelinessSocialIsolation</p>
Covid	<p>11. *Washington Post October 26, 2022 <i>For those still trying to duck covid, the isolation is worse than ever</i> Some members of the masked minority have reorganized their lives indefinitely. There's no reliable tally of the people who are "Still COVIDing," but certainly they're in the minority. A September poll by Monmouth University found that 22 percent of people are very concerned about a family member becoming seriously ill with covid, compared with 45 percent the previous September. And a quarter of Americans supported mask mandates and social distancing guidelines, down from 63 percent last September.</p>

	<p>People who continue to take many precautions know that when President Biden said “the pandemic is over” during an interview last month, he was reflecting a popular attitude: The available vaccines and medicines have made things safe enough, for enough people, that we can finally close the book on 2020 and start partying — or, at least, living — like it’s 2019 again. Which makes it that much more isolating for the people who are still in pandemic mode. . .</p> <p>People who are still taking all available precautions largely fall into two groups: those with underlying health conditions for whom contracting the covid-19 virus — or, in some cases, even getting the vaccine — could be very dangerous; and those who just don’t want to get this virus, either because they fear acute illness or long-term deleterious effects. Both camps have largely given up waiting for a light at the end of the tunnel. They view covid as here to stay and have reordered their lives accordingly.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/IsolationWorseThanEver</p> <p>12. Patch.com October 26, 2022 <i>'Tripledemic' Warning as Respiratory Illness Cases Rise In MA</i> Positive test results for respiratory syncytial virus have been rising recently in Massachusetts, according to CDC data. Nationally, some 7,334 RSV tests came back positive for the week ending Oct. 15, up from 6,518 the week before that and 5,210 the week before that, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In Massachusetts, PCR tests have detected a recent uptick in RSV. Over the first week of October, about 8.6 percent of about 1,000 PCR tests were positive — but both the number of tests and the positive percentage have risen since then, according to CDC data. Here's how RSV has risen in Massachusetts in recent weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct. 8 — 11.3 percent positive out of 1,136 tests • Oct. 15 — 15.1 percent positive out of 1,174 tests • Oct. 22 — 17.2 percent positive out of 1,204 tests <p>https://tinyurl.com/TripledemicWarning</p> <p>13. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) October 2022 <i>Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Health Care Personnel — United States, 2021–22</i> During March 29–April 19, 2022, CDC conducted an opt-in Internet panel survey of 3,618 U.S. HCP to estimate influenza vaccination coverage during the 2021–22 influenza season as well as receipt of the primary COVID-19 vaccination series and a booster dose. Influenza vaccination coverage was 79.9% during the 2021–22 season, and 87.3% of HCP reported having completed the primary COVID-19 vaccination series; among these HCP, 67.1% reported receiving a COVID-19 booster dose. Among HCP, influenza, COVID-19 primary series, and COVID-19 booster dose vaccination coverage were lowest among assistants and aides, those working in long-term care (LTC) or home health care settings, and those whose employer neither required nor recommended the vaccines. More information: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report</p>
Farren Care Center	<p>14. Greenfield Recorder October 18, 2022</p>

	<p><i>With Farren demo permit filed, abatement process slated for as soon as November</i></p> <p>The company issued a demolition recommendation in November 2021 and affirmed its decision in April, but no demolition permit had been filed with the Building Department until Oct. 12.</p> <p>The Farren closed in April 2021, having essentially merged with a similar facility in Holyoke called Mount St. Vincent Care Center. All of the Farren’s 105 residents were reportedly offered space at the Holyoke facility. Trinity Health has maintained that the Montague City Road building was too old for its purposes and would be too expensive to update to modern standards.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/FarrenDemoPermitFiled</p>
Guardianship	<p>15. *New York Times</p> <p>October 25, 2022 (updated)</p> <p><i>The Mysterious Patient in Room 23: The Hermit Baroness</i></p> <p>Birgit Thyssen-Bornemisza led a life of eccentric anonymity and shabby gentility. Then her money got cut off. Then she had a stroke.</p> <p>For more than six months, she has remained in her hospital bed, becoming what hospitals call a longtime boarder — someone who cannot pay, doesn’t need acute care, but cannot be transferred to a nursing home or rehab facility because there is no money or insurance to pay for care there. Far from her young life in the aristocracy, she was now living an existence no one would choose.</p> <p>At a guardianship hearing in August, a social worker for the hospital, Whitney Sewell, testified that Birgit had not received therapy to help her walk or swallow. “In the hospital we don’t have the ability to provide rehabilitative services that a rehab does,” Ms. Sewell explained.</p> <p>The hospital will not discharge her without a nursing home or a rehab center to take her, and none will do so without a Medicaid application in process or other hope of payment. And so, Birgit remains in a shared room on Mount Sinai West’s ninth floor, her bill still running. . .</p> <p>Guardianship, which provides essential protection to many frail or incapacitated people, has also been criticized as overly intrusive, and its legal processes as secretive. Claude Pepper, the former chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging, once called it “the most punitive civil penalty that can be levied against an American citizen, with the exception, of course, of the death penalty.” . .</p> <p>From a health perspective, guardianship may indeed benefit her, by allowing her to move to a facility where she can regain some capacity to walk and swallow. Yet it is an involuntary measure that strips away her privacy and autonomy, two ideals she seems to have treasured above most others.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/MysteriousPatientRoom23</p>
Health Topics	<p>16. STAT News</p> <p>October 28, 2022</p> <p><i>With hospitalizations ticking up, flu season appears off to an early start</i></p> <p>There are increasing signs that flu season is off to a very early start in parts of the United States, with the cumulative hospitalization rate higher than it has been at this point in the fall for more than a decade, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday.</p> <p>In its weekly FluView report, the CDC estimated that there have already been 880,000 influenza illnesses, 6,900 flu hospitalizations, and 360 deaths caused</p>

	<p>by flu this season, which started at the beginning of October. It is unusual for the CDC to have enough data to issue estimates on the burden of flu this early in the season.</p> <p>These figures are estimates, based on data from a flu hospitalization surveillance network of acute care hospitals in 14 states. Flu activity is currently highest in south-central and southeast parts of the country, and New York. It is also picking up along the Eastern Seaboard. . .</p> <p>While it's impossible to guess how bad the flu season will be, there is one thing that does look reasonable to assume. If the current levels of circulation of influenza and RSV virus continue or increase, there could be a lot of respiratory illness around Thanksgiving. Much of the current illness is in young children, who typically get sick first in the cold and flu season and spread their bugs to siblings, parents, grandparents, and other adults with whom they are in contact.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/FluSeasonOffToEarlyStart</p>
Aging Topics	<p>17. SF Camerawork <i>Marna Clarke: Time as We Know It</i> Online photographic exhibit</p> <p>In a time when society seems to prioritize youth and physical beauty and secretly manifests ageism in the job market, older adults are often rendered invisible. Yet, today, there are more than 46 million people who are 65 and older living in the U.S., a number that will grow to almost 90 million by 2050. Marna Clarke's brave and revealing series, <i>Time as We Know It</i>, which she began around the time of her 70th birthday in 2010, charts the figural transformation of the aging human body, while also documenting the tender relationship between partners who found each other late in life.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/TimeAsWeKnowIt</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</p> <p>Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmooore8473@charter.net.</p>
Websites	
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	<p>For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/.</p>
Nursing Home Closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quincy Health and Rehabilitation Center LLC, Quincy 126 beds; current census: 77 Owner: Waschusetz Healthcare Star rating: 2 stars Target closure: December 7 • Attleboro Healthcare, Attleboro

	<p>120 beds Owner: Next Step Healthcare Star rating: Special Focus Facility Target closure: December 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedham Healthcare, Dedham 145 beds Owner: Next Step Healthcare Star rating: 1 star Target closure: December 29 • Gloucester Healthcare, Gloucester 101 beds Owner: Next Step Healthcare Star rating: 3 stars Target closure: December 30 • Chetwynde Healthcare, West Newton 75 beds Owner: Next Step Healthcare Star rating: 2 stars Target closure: December 30 <p>NOTE: Admission freezes have been initiated in all facilities with closure plans.</p> <p>Closure Notices and Relocation Plans available at: https://tinyurl.com/MANursingHomeClosures</p>
Pending nursing home change of ownership in Massachusetts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal Health Cape Cod • Royal Health Cotuit • Royal Health Falmouth • Royal Health Megansett • Royal Health Meadow View – North Reading • Royal Health Wayland • Royal Wood Mill – Lawrence • Royal Health Fairhaven • Royal Health Braintree • Royal Health Norwell <p>https://www.royalhealthgroup.com</p>
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/
Assisted Living Residences Closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motif by Monarch (previously Landmark at Ocean View), Beverly, July 2022 • Connemara Senior Living, Brockton, Summer 2022 <p>Landmark at Longwood, Mission Hill, Boston, October 5, 2022</p>
Nursing homes with admission freezes	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <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</p>

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.

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:

- 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

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.

Updated on October 28, 2022. Red font – newly added

Name of Facility	City/Town	Date of Freeze	Qualifying Factor
Attleboro Healthcare	Attleboro	8/31/2022	Closure notice
Cape Heritage Rehab and Health Cen.	Sandwich	10/26/2022	Infection Control
CareOne at Lowell	Lowell	10/11/2022	New cases
Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation	Norwood	9/14/2022	Infection Control
Chetwynde	West Newton	9/1/2022	Closure notice
Dedham Healthcare	Dedham	7/6/2022	Infection Control
Ellis Nursing Home	Norwood	10/26/2022	New cases
Gloucester Healthcare	Gloucester	9/1/2022	Closure notice
Lanessa Extended Care	Webster	10/4/2022	Infection control
Quincy Health and Rehabilitation Center LLC, Quincy	Quincy	8/10/2022	Closure notice
St. Patrick’s Manor	Framingham	10/11/2022	New cases
Sixteen Acres Healthcare	Springfield	10/18/2022	New cases
Southeast Health Care Center	Easton	10/26/2022	Infection control

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List of Special Focus Facilities

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates

<https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram>

Updated June 29, 2022

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.

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. This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing 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 July 27, 2022)

Newly added to the listing

- None

Massachusetts facilities not improved

- None

Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement

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

Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program

- None

Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing

- Parkway Health and Rehabilitation Center
<https://tinyurl.com/ParkwayHealthCenter>
- Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center
<https://plymouthrehab.com/>
- Revolution Charwell
<https://tinyurl.com/RevolutionCharwell>
- Savoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, New Bedford (added in June)
No website
- South Dennis Healthcare, South Dennis (added in July)
<https://www.nextstephc.com/southdennis>
- Tremont Health Care Center, Wareham
<https://thetremontrehabcare.com/>
- Vantage at South Hadley

	<p>No website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Amesbury https://tinyurl.com/VeroAmesbury • Vero Health and Rehabilitation Center of Revere https://tinyurl.com/VeroRevere • Watertown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Watertown (added in June) No website <p>https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</p>																				
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i> Data updated August 2022 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 border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th># reported</th> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>249</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>79</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7,092</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,857</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>552</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>489</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>33</td> <td>J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>K</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# reported	Deficiency Tag	249	B	79	C	7,092	D	1,857	E	552	F	489	G	1	H	33	J	7	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,</p>																				

	<p>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.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</p>
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i></p> <p>CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to data.cms.gov and updated monthly.</p>
Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data	<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></p> <p>Table of Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Daily Dashboard • COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report • Additional COVID-19 Data <p>CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data</p>
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn to use and leverage Social Media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org
<p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p>	<p>Workgroup</p>

<p>Please contact workgroup lead for more information</p> <p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Please contact workgroup lead for more information <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p>			
<p>General Membership</p> <p>Behavioral Health</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Facilities (Nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living)</p> <p>Home and Community Based Services</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Legislative</p> <p>Legal Issues</p> <p>Veteran Services</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Workgroup lead</p>	<p>Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos</p> <p>Frank Baskin</p> <p>Pricilla O'Reilly Samantha VanSchoick Lachlan Farrow</p> <p>Arlene Germain</p> <p>Meg Coffin</p> <p>Bill Henning</p> <p>Richard Moore</p> <p>Jeni Kaplan</p> <p>James Lomastro</p>	<p>Email</p> <p>bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</p> <p>baskinfrank19@gmail.com</p> <p>prisoreilly@gmail.com svanschoick@cil.org lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</p> <p>agermain@manhr.org</p> <p>mcoffin@centerlw.org</p> <p>bhenning@bostoncil.org</p> <p>rmoore8743@charter.net</p> <p>jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</p> <p>jimlomastro@comcast.net</p>
<p>Note of thanks</p>	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judi Fonsh • Dave Kingsley • Dick Moore <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>. <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</i></p>			

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.

Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at:

<https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/>

For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit

www.DignityAllianceMA.org.