



## LeadingAge Montana COVID-19 Situation Report 8/13/20

Montana has had over 100 new COVID cases a day for the past several days. The IHME projects 316 deaths in the state by December 1.

Montana has the fifth highest percentage of older adults in the country, with 17.8% of the population 65 years of age or older. Older adults aged 60+ also make up the majority of COVID deaths in Montana.

### CURRENT STATS

#### Montana's Older Population

- 17.8% of Montanans are age 65 or older

#### Current State of COVID-19 Cases

- 5,268 COVID-19 cases in the state
- Over 100 cases/day on average (a 2% increase from last week)
- Over 1,000 older adults have been infected

#### Current State of COVID-19 Deaths

- 80 total deaths across the state
  - 68 deaths of older adults (85% of total deaths)
  - Around one-third of deaths have been related to long-term care

#### Projected Deaths at this Rate

- 316 projected COVID deaths in Montana by December 1 (IHME)
  - 268 of them are older adults (85% of total, corresponding to the ratio above)

## **MONTANA AGING SERVICES NEEDS & EXPERIENCES**

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- 26% of nursing homes in Montana lack a one-week supply of N-95 masks.
- 23% lack a one-week supply of surgical masks.
- 21% lack a one-week supply of gowns.
- Nursing homes were promised FEMA shipments of PPE, but many supplies were of substandard quality.
- Providers face significantly higher-than-normal prices, which create significant financial pressures.
- Infection spikes or surges create additional pressure on PPE supplies.

### **Testing**

- All nursing home and assisted living facility workers and residents are required to be tested for COVID to allow visitors, per an emergency order.
- The federal government's nursing homes only testing assistance has just begun.
- Conservative monthly cost estimate for a 200-employee nursing home in the U.S. to test staff just once a week is nearly \$160,000 per month.

### **Staffing**

- Nearly all long-term care staff face potential exposure to COVID-19 on a day-to-day basis. This uncertainty places undue physical and emotional stresses on staff.
- Increased numbers of infected employees create additional overtime and staff replacement costs and threaten service delivery.
- Demands in COVID-19 isolation units further depletes already overburdened staff.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

- Revenues for providers are down, in general, as a result of fewer admissions across the continuum of care.
- As revenues decline and costs continue to soar, long-term care providers will be in a perilous financial position.
- Providers report COVID-related increases are driving operating losses from acquiring PPE and maintain staffing with reduced occupancy.
- Provider costs for staff testing four times per month will cost providers \$400 per employee or about \$10 per resident per day, if the State discontinues providing testing.

*(Updated 8/13)*