From: Crozer, William F. EOP/WHO
Subject: [External]What You Need To Know: The Trump Administration Is Supporting and Protecting Our Nation"s Seniors
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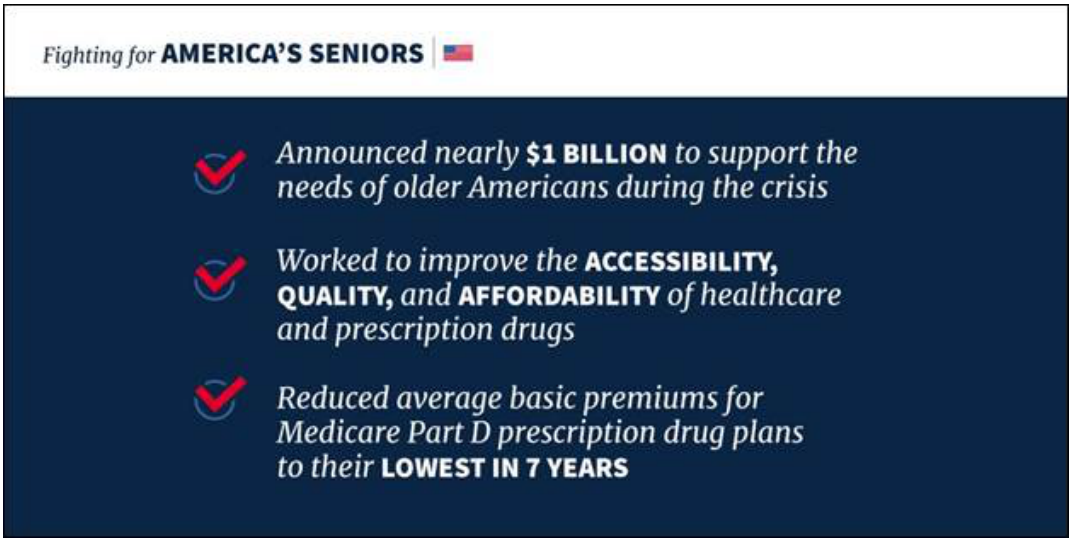
THE WHITE HOUSE

State and Local Leaders –

In April, President Donald J. Trump signed a Presidential Proclamation recognizing May 2020 as Older Americans Month. "My Administration remains committed to enacting policies that benefit our Nation's older adults," the **proclamation** states. On Monday, June 15 – Elder Abuse Awareness Day – President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence participated in a roundtable discussion with Senior Administration Officials to highlight their respective efforts to safeguard America's senior citizens (**remarks**; **video**). Older Americans have been hit especially hard by the coronavirus pandemic, and President Trump and the Administration have worked closely State and local officials, healthcare experts, and other stakeholders to protect them.

In a bipartisan effort, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide funding for nursing home inspections, launched an initiative to deliver personal protective equipment (PPE) to more than 15,000 nursing homes, and expanded testing facilities around the country through unprecedented private-public partnerships. And last month, President Trump announced a new program to address the rising price of insulin by providing Medicare patients with new choices of Part D plans that offer insulin at an affordable and predictable cost of no more than $35 for a month's supply. HHS has also prohibited medical providers who take emergency COVID-19 funds from surprise billing (find more on previous Administration actions related to surprise billing **here**). And finally, the Administration is working with State and local leaders to crack down on elder fraud. Learn more about those efforts from the Department of Justice's Elder Justice Initiative (EJI) **here**. For more, see a helpful Fact sheet below – **President Trump Will Always Fight for America's Seniors** – and here (**President Donald J. Trump Remains Committed to Caring for Our Nation's Seniors During the Coronavirus Pandemic and Beyond**).



Vice President Mike Pence: **From the earliest days of our Administration, President @realDonaldTrump has fought tirelessly to protect our Nation's most vulnerable. Today, we strengthened our commitment to fighting for America's Seniors as we continue our whole-**

of-America response to the Coronavirus.

The White House: **"The President has been focused on making sure our seniors in nursing homes are safe and protected," @CMSGOV Administrator @SeemaCMS tells @NexstarDC's @morganwrightTV prior to a roundtable with @realDonaldTrump at the White House.**

Recent and Ongoing Supportive Actions by the Trump Administration to Support and Protect Our Nation's Seniors

- **President Trump Announces Lower Out of Pocket Insulin Costs for Medicare's Seniors**: Under President Trump's leadership, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) **announced** that over 1,750 standalone Medicare Part D prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage have applied to offer lower insulin costs through the Part D Senior Savings Model for the 2021 plan year. Across the Nation, participating enhanced Part D plans will provide many seniors with Medicare access to a broad set of insulins at a maximum $35 copay for a month's supply of each type of insulin (read more **here**). This announcement builds on previous actions taken by the Administration to improve the accessibility, quality, and affordability of healthcare and prescription drugs for our Nation's seniors. Average basic premiums for Medicare Part D prescription drug plans are the lowest in 7 years and have fallen by 13.5 percent since 2017, saving beneficiaries $1.9 billion in premium costs. Just last year, the President signed an **Executive Order** to empower seniors with more choice and access in healthcare and improve the fiscal sustainability of Medicare. This order will eliminate unnecessary barriers and combat fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare, improving the program and maximizing freedom for patients and providers.

- **President Trump Signs Executive Order on Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors:** In keeping with his pledge to defend Medicare for the nation's seniors, on October 3, 2019, President Donald Trump signed an **Executive Order on Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors**. The Executive Order protects and improves Medicare by providing Medicare Advantage with new tools and options for seniors, reducing unnecessary and burdensome regulations, and targeting fraud and abuse in the Medicare system. "Our vision for the future of health in America has four crucial parts: we will protect vulnerable patients; we will deliver the affordability you need; we will give you the options and control you want, and we will provide the quality you deserve," President Trump stated during the Executive Order signing at The Villages in Florida. You can find a full video of President Trump's remarks here (**President Trump Delivers Remarks and Signs Executive Order**) and a helpful **Fact Sheet**.

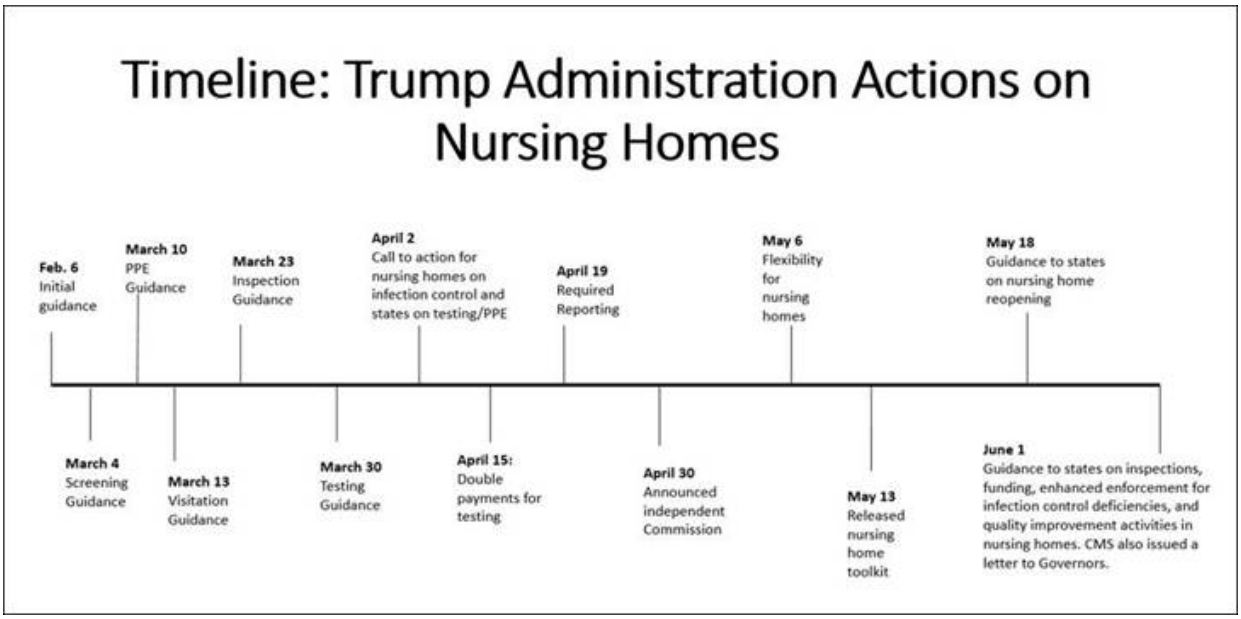
- **The Trump Administration Is Expanding Telehealth for Seniors and All Americans**: Under the President's leadership and at the direction of the White House Task Force, the Trump Administration has taken historic steps to expand Americans' access to telehealth, so that patients, particularly our Medicare beneficiaries, can receive a wider range of services without having to travel to a healthcare facility (*read more from Surgeon General Jerome Adams and CMS Administrator Seema Verma – **Telehealth Plays Big Role in Coronavirus Cure***). States are also examining their own policies to determine if there are undue barriers to maximizing telehealth service delivery for their residents in this time of national emergency. States have broad authority to deliver and reimburse Medicaid covered services through telehealth modalities, and additional federal approval is often not required to do so. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued guidance on telehealth reimbursement and coverage options in the Medicaid program **here**.

- **The Trump Administration Is Supporting Nursing Homes and Senior Care Centers During the Coronavirus Pandemic**: On April 30, President Trump delivered remarks on the many ways the Administration is protecting America's seniors from the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so as we start the process of opening up America again. Among additional actions, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will send supplemental shipments of personal protective equipment to all 15,400 Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes in America. In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) is providing States with $81 million from the CARES Act to increase their inspections of nursing homes at this crucial time. More **here**. Concurrently, CMS also **announced** a new, independent Commission that will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the nursing home response to the coronavirus pandemic.

- **CMS Unveils Enhanced Enforcement Actions Based on Nursing Home COVID-19 Data and Inspection Results:** On June 1, CMS **unveiled** enhanced enforcement for nursing homes with violations of longstanding infection control practices. This announcement builds on the previous actions

CMS has taken to ensure the safety and security of America's nursing homes as the nation battles coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and is a key step in the Trump Administration's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. The enhanced and targeted accountability measures are based on early trends in the most recent data regarding incidence of COVID-19 in nursing homes, as well as data regarding the results of the agency's targeted infection control inspections. CMS is increasing enforcement (e.g., civil money penalties (CMPs)) for facilities with persistent infection control violations, and imposing enforcement actions on lower level infection control deficiencies to ensure they are addressed with increased gravity.

- **CMS Issues Nursing Homes Best Practices Toolkit to Combat COVID-19**: On May 13, under the direction of President Trump, CMS released a new **toolkit** developed to aid nursing homes, Governors, states, departments of health, and other agencies who provide oversight and assistance to these facilities, with additional resources to aid in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic within nursing homes. The toolkit builds upon previous actions taken by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which provide a wide range of tools and guidance to states, healthcare providers and others during the public health emergency. More **here**.



As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be helpful. The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs is the primary liaison between the White House and State and local elected officials. We appreciate your partnership.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

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What You Need To Know | The Trump Administration Is Supporting and Protecting Out Nation's Seniors

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"Nothing will ever stop me from fulfilling my solemn duty to America's seniors. I'll use every power at my disposal to lower drug prices, and my administration will always protect Medicare and Social Security, and...preexisting conditions." – President Trump

President Trump is committed to providing our nation's seniors with the best quality healthcare at the lowest cost possible.

- Last year, the President signed an Executive Order to improve and protect Medicare, empowering

seniors with more choice and access to quality care.

    - This order will eliminate unnecessary barriers and combat fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicare, improving the program and maximizing freedom for patients and providers.

- Thanks to President Trump's efforts to improve healthcare for seniors, Medicare Advantage premiums have fallen 28 percent since 2017 to a 13-year low.

- Under President Trump's leadership, the Administration has worked to approve record numbers of generic drugs – offering more affordable options for seniors.

- President Trump is committed to ending the scourge of surprise medical billing and has ensured that his Administration will always protect Americans with preexisting conditions.

To give seniors better access to the care they need, President Trump is taking action to lower the price of prescription drugs.

- President Trump has prioritized lowering prescription drug prices and has taken historic steps to do so, including releasing a groundbreaking blueprint to lower drug prices across the country and issuing rules to allow the importation of certain prescription drugs from Canada.

- The Administration recently announced that many Medicare plans will be offering lower out-of-pocket insulin costs for seniors for the 2021 plan year.

    - This action will provide critical relief to the many Medicare beneficiaries who rely on insulin.

- For the third year in a row, the average basic premium for Medicare Part D prescription drug prices has declined, saving beneficiaries $1.9 billion in premiums over time.

President Trump has worked tirelessly to protect seniors and ensure that they have access to needed resources during the coronavirus pandemic.

- President Trump's "Opening Up America Again" guidelines include direction for states to take special precautions to protect our seniors.

- The President has taken action to improve the safety of America's nursing homes, including launching the Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes.

    - The Administration is providing approximately $81 million dedicated to increasing inspections at nursing homes.

- The Administration is providing support to impacted nursing homes to help ensure quality care for seniors.

    - Just last month, the Administration announced the distribution of nearly $4.9 billion to nursing homes impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

- President Trump acted early on in the outbreak to significantly expand Medicare telehealth coverage, allowing seniors to receive the care they need from the safety of their own home.

- The Administration has worked to expand access to coronavirus testing for seniors, without burdening them with the cost.

- The Administration announced nearly $1 billion to provide older Americans with the resources they need during the pandemic, including home-delivered meals.