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August 26th, 2021 - Issue #13

### **WELCOME**

Your voice is needed to raise the urgency around the need for greater protection leading into this year's flu and pneumonia season. Unfortunately, the schedule being followed by the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is simply too delayed. If ACIP waits until their planned October meeting, we will likely not have access to these vaccines until well into the flu and pneumonia season when many of us will have already risked exposure. This is simply not acceptable.

It is time that they hear from you to urge the committee to prioritize issuing recommendations for new and improved pneumonia vaccines. Please send me an email (mark@retiresafe.org ) and I will personally send them directly from RetireSafe to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

#### Tell them:

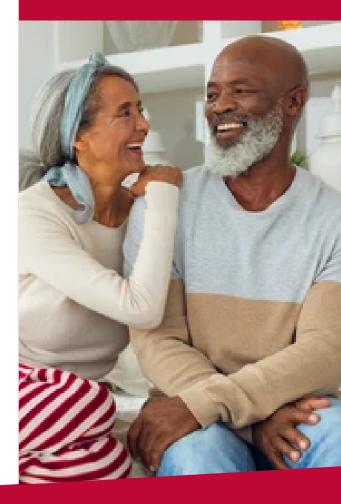
- The ACIP must prioritize recommending the use of these vaccines
- 50k people die of pneumonia each year, many of whom are seniors
- We deserve access to the most effective pneumonia vaccines
- Ask them to act now without delay to protect older Americans

Thank you for your continued support and I am looking forward to receiving your emails.

Mark Gibbons President/CEO RetireSafe

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# **Current Issues and Important Topics**

**Mental Illness**: The stigma around mental illness prevents people from seeking professional help. Become part of the solution by seeking help or bringing awareness to resources for others. Check out this article for more information and a few helpful resources at the bottom!

LetsTalkStigma.org

**Improving Your Mental Health**: Mental health is extremely important to the extent that our physical health can also be impacted. This article goes in depth and explains the different ways to improve seniors mental health and it explains why it is extremely important.

LaconiaDailySun.com

**Affordable Senior Housing**: Are you a senior and low cost living is important to you? This article may be of interest. It talks about a new agreement that has been made where companies are to open new medical centers with affordable housing for seniors. These companies are to do this to show their support for CareMax.

**BusinessWire.com** 

# YOUR SCAMS SURVIVAL GUIDE

By: Marwa, Amanda, Kira, and Kaleigh

RetireSafe

"Your Scams Survival Guide" Webinar Launch. The lovely interns here at RetireSafe have created a webinar to protect you and your loved ones from financial scams. The webinar is posted on our website. Check it out by clicking the banner above!

#### News, Articles and Education

Ease Your Stress of Aging: At RetireSafe we understand the frustration aging has on you and your family. We are sharing this article with advice to help ease some of your stress and aid in a mentally healthier month of August!

**USAToday.com** 

Medicare to Pay for Mental Health Visits: In the 2022 Medicare Physician Fee schedule, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services has proposed allowing Medicare to pay for mental health virtual visits through 2022. It expects to finalize the schedule later this year.

MedCityNews.com

**Symptons of Mental Illness:** Read this article to learn more about the signs and symptoms of mental illness in seniors!

1 in 4 people face mental illness in old age; read this article to learn more for faster intervention!

APlaceForMom.com

Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2021: The Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2021 was introduced. If passed, it would allow mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists to bill Medicare for counseling services. This would give medicare beneficiaries access to over 225,000 licensed behavioral health providers..

Click To Read the Article

## National Immunization Month

August is National Immunization Month, so check out this <u>Article</u> to learn about the importance of Immunizations.

