

# Hospice and Palliative Care Resources for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 01/20/21

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links. Please note, these Updates are published when there is helpful news to share.

"...in my first act as President, I would like to ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer to remember all those we lost this past year to the pandemic. To those 400,000 fellow Americans, mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We will honor them by becoming the people and nation we know we can and should be. Let us say a silent prayer for those who lost their lives, for those they left behind, and for our country."

– Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

### Policy Update

#### **OCR Announces Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Online or Web-Based Scheduling**

OCR [announced that it will exercise its enforcement discretion](#) and will not impose penalties for violations of the HIPAA Rules on covered health care providers or their business associates in connection with the good faith use of online or web-based scheduling applications (collectively, "WBSAs") for the scheduling of individual appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency. This exercise of enforcement discretion is effective immediately but has retroactive effect to December 11, 2020.

### Provider Update

#### **US Approaches 400,000 Coronavirus Deaths**

[CNN reports](#) (01/19/21), "As the US approaches 400,000 deaths from the coronavirus pandemic, new cases have been trending down but multiple states are reporting cases of new variants of the virus. The US recorded 1.5 million new Covid-19 cases in the past seven days, according to the most recent data from Johns Hopkins University, an 11% drop from the previous week. Cases declined in 35 states week-over-week, and 18 states saw a drop in the number of deaths."

#### **Black Doctors Tackle Vaccine Hesitancy**

In an [article published by NPR](#) (01/19/21), journalist Pien Huang reports that, "Black Americans have been catching the coronavirus, getting severely ill and dying from it, [at a rate higher](#) than other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. Black Americans are also less likely to want to get the COVID-19 vaccine, according to polls. A survey from the Kaiser Family Foundation last month found that around [35% of Black adults](#) are not planning to get COVID-19 vaccines."

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