

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 01/22/21

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.

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

– Desmond Tutu

Policy Update

Biden Releases National COVID-19 Strategy

On January 21, President Biden released a [national strategy](#) on COVID-19 and committed to a transparent, science-based, equitable COVID-19 response. In the national strategy, there are specific actions that will be taken to address COVID-19 pandemic, bring down the number of cases and increase vaccine distribution. A [summary](#) was also released.

Biden and the COVID team will hold regular public briefings and release regular science-based reports. The White House also plans to publicly share data and performance measures that will support COVID-19 recovery, including those related to cases, testing, vaccination and hospital admissions. The administration hopes to make the information available in real-time to officials at the federal, state and local levels in the near future.

Provider Update

CDC Confirms that Hospice and Home Healthcare Workers are Essential for Vaccine Prioritization

CMS confirmed with CDC this week the hospice and home healthcare workers are considered essential workers and should be prioritized for COVID-19 vaccines. Here are links to additional guidance from the CDC that providers can share with their local or state public health officials.

- Both hospice and home healthcare workers are considered essential workers under occupational code 621610. See this resource for reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/categories-essential-workers.html>
- Essential workers webpage and North American Industry Classification System codes: https://www.census.gov/eos/www/naics/2017NAICS/2017_NAICS_Manual.pdf
- Stakeholders can contact their local government officials to learn more about the plan in their jurisdiction. Stakeholders can also contact providers or the state department of public health to learn about more vaccination options.

COVID-19 Long Haulers

Dozens of clinics is have cropped up around the U.S. to address a puzzling aspect of COVID-19 — the effects that can stubbornly afflict some people weeks or months after the infection itself has subsided. This Associated Press article (01/19/21) addresses that issue, [‘We know this is real’: New clinics aid virus ‘long-haulers.’](#)

Resources

CDC Resources for Vaccine Safety

On January 20, 2021, CDC issued print-only materials developed by the CDC to support v-safe and vaccine safety. Access these [V-safe Print Resources](#).

Hastings Center Releases New Guidance on Covid-19 Vaccine Allocation

The Hastings Center released new [guidance for public health authorities and health care systems](#) to help ensure equitable and effective prioritization of Covid-19 vaccine access in months ahead.

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