

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 01/29/21

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.

“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

— Abraham Lincoln

Provider Update

Coronavirus Cases Fall In 41 States

KHN reports: “New coronavirus infections fell by 16% over the past week — the third straight week of significant improvement. Yes, but: The U.S. is still averaging roughly 165,000 new cases per day, meaning the virus is still spreading largely unchecked. And the rise of more contagious variants will ensure that Americans’ risk remains high.” Visit the Axios website to learn more, [Coronavirus Cases Fall in 41 States](#).

US COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants

The emerging variants CDC is closely monitoring have mutations in the virus genome that alter the characteristics and cause the virus to act differently in ways that are significant to public health (e.g., causes more severe disease, spreads more easily between humans, requires different treatments, changes the effectiveness of current vaccines). It’s important to understand that genetic mutations are expected, and some variants can spread and become predominant while others subside. Visit the CDC website to read [US COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants](#) (01/28/21).

New Variant of Virus that Causes COVID-19 Detected

Viruses constantly change through mutation, and new variants of a virus are expected to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist. Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States and globally during this pandemic. Visit the CDC website to read [New Variant of Virus that Causes COVID-19 Detected](#) (01/28/21).

Johnson & Johnson's Single-Dose Shot Is 66% Effective

KHN reports: “A global study of nearly 44,000 found that the COVID-19 vaccine made by Johnson & Johnson is 66% effective in preventing moderate to severe disease. The study was conducted in the U.S., Latin America and South Africa. The vaccine did better at preventing disease in this country – 72% percent — and less well in South Africa – 57% efficacy. The efficacy seen in Latin America was 66%. The South African results are troubling because the coronavirus spreading there and that has now been detected in the U.S. raising concerns that the vaccines developed so far might not work as well against it.” Visit the KHN website to read [Johnson & Johnson's Single-Dose Shot Is 66% Effective](#) (KHN, 01/29/21).

Novavax's COVID Vaccine 89% Effective, Less So Against Mutations

KHN Reports: “A new Covid-19 vaccine from Novavax was found to be 89% effective in a clinical trial conducted in the UK and appears to offer protection against some variants of the coronavirus, the American biotech firm has announced. Novavax said Thursday that its vaccine was found to have been 95.6% effective against the original novel coronavirus, and 85.6% effective against the variant first identified in the UK, known as B.1.1.7,

based on results from a Phase 3 trial conducted in the UK. The study included efficacy estimates by strain based on PCR tests performed on variants from 56 Covid-19 cases in the trial.” Visit the KHN website to read [Novavax's COVID Vaccine 89% Effective, Less So Against Mutations](#) (KHN, 01/29/21).

South Africa Variant Reported in South Carolina

The Washington Post reports: “Two people in South Carolina have been infected with the variant, which has mutations that scientists say could allow the virus to elude some treatments and threaten the effectiveness of vaccines. Neither person had a recent history of travel, suggesting the variant is already spreading in the community.” Visit the Post website to read [Coronavirus variant first seen in South Africa identified in South Carolina](#) (01/28/21).

COVID Long-Haulers Get More Medical Attention

KHN reports: “People with lingering symptoms of covid-19 months after initially recovering are finding more help. Doctors seek answers to multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, or MIS-C, a rare inflammatory condition potentially linked to COVID-19.” Visit the KHN website to read [COVID Long-Haulers Get More Medical Attention](#) (KHN, 01/28/21).

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