

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 02/08/21

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.

“Some days there won't be a song in your heart. Sing anyway.” — Emory Austin

Provider Update

FDA Updates (02/05/21)

- The FDA has scheduled a meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) for Feb. 26, 2021, to discuss the request for emergency use authorization (EUA) for a COVID-19 vaccine from Janssen Biotech Inc. The FDA intends to make background materials available to the public, including the meeting agenda and committee roster, no later than two business days prior to the meeting.
- The [FDA issued a statement](#) noting that as part of its commitment to a public and transparent process, the FDA is developing guidance for diagnostic, therapeutic and vaccine developers to help guide ongoing medical product development as they evaluate the impact of COVID-19 variants on their products.

Articles of Interest from U.S. Media Sources

[U.K. coronavirus variant spreading rapidly through United States](#) (Washington Post, 02/08/21)

The coronavirus variant that shut down much of the United Kingdom is spreading rapidly across the United States, outcompeting other strains and doubling its prevalence among confirmed infections every week and a half, according to new research made public Sunday. The report, [posted on the preprint server MedRxiv](#) and not yet peer-reviewed or published in a journal, comes from a collaboration of many scientists and provides the first hard data to support a forecast issued last month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that showed the variant becoming dominant in the United States by late March.

[In pandemic, more people choose to die at home](#) (Associated Press/Washington Post 02/07/21)

“What we are seeing with COVID is certainly patients want to stay at home,” said Judi Lund Person, the vice president for regulatory compliance at the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. “They don’t want to go to the hospital. They don’t want to go to a nursing home.” National hospice organizations are reporting that facilities are seeing double-digit percentage increases in the number of patients being cared for at home. The phenomenon has played out Carroll Hospice in Westminster, Maryland, which has seen a 30% to 40% spike in demand for home-based care, said executive director Regina Bodnar. She said avoiding nursing homes and coronavirus risks are the biggest factor behind the increase.”

[Actual Coronavirus Infections Far Higher Than Confirmed Cases, Model Shows](#) (NPR, 02/06/21)

A research team at Columbia University has built a mathematical model that gives a much more complete — and scary — picture of how much virus is circulating in our communities. It estimates how

many people are never counted because they never get tested. And it answers a second question that is arguably even more crucial — but that until now has not been reliably estimated: On any given day, what is the total number of people who are actively infectious? This includes those who may have been infected on previous days but are still shedding virus and capable of spreading disease. Model's conclusion: On any given day, the actual number of active cases — people who are newly infected or still infectious — is likely 10 times that day's official number of reported cases.

[Fauci looking ahead to more vaccines in March, April](#) (Politico, 02/0/21)

The demand for Covid-19 vaccine doses may outpace supply at the moment, but availability is already looking better for the months ahead, Anthony Fauci said Sunday morning. “The demand clearly outstrips the supply right now,” Fauci told NBC’s Chuck Todd. “If you look at the escalation of availability of doses purely on the ability and the capability of manufacturing, it’s going to escalate and will continue to escalate as we go from February to March to April and beyond.”

[A Parallel Pandemic Hits Health Care Workers: Trauma and Exhaustion](#) (New York Times, 02/04/21)

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing extreme levels of burnout and psychological trauma among health care workers, and its impact on the medical workforce is expected to persist even after the virus is controlled. More health workers are feeling unappreciated and exhausted, leading to a jump in early retirements, closures of private practices, and staffing shortages at community hospitals, nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Resources

Webinar: Bridging the Digital Divide for HCBS Beneficiaries (Part I)

OCR is sharing information about the February 18, 2021 webinar, “Bridging the Digital Divide for HCBS Beneficiaries,” which will be hosted by our partners at the HHS Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). This webinar is part of a monthly series that invites subject matter experts and practitioners from across the home-and-community-based services (HCBS) continuum to share insights and best practices to develop high quality HCBS programs and services. [Register for the Webinar.](#)

The Johns Hopkins 30-Minute COVID-19 Briefing

Join experts from the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center (CRC) at 12:00 pm ET on Fridays for timely, accessible updates on the state of the pandemic and the public health response. [Find these briefings online](#) on Fridays.

-###-

