

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 02/19/21

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.

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” — Mother Teresa

Provider Updates

FDA COVID-19 Update

The [FDA announced the following actions](#) (02/16/21) taken in its ongoing response effort to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Warning letter issued to [Evolved Ayurvedic Discoveries, Inc./BioCBDPlus](#) for selling misleadingly represents the products can mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose or cure COVID-19 in people.
- Testing updates: As of today, 331 tests and sample collection devices are authorized by the FDA under emergency use authorizations (EUAs).

Articles of Interest from U.S. Media

- [Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine sharply reduces symptomatic Covid-19](#) (CNN, 02/16/21)
Pfizer-BioNTech's [Covid-19 vaccine](#) appears to reduce symptomatic coronavirus infections by more than 90% in the real world.
- [The coronavirus is here to stay — here's what that means](#) (*Nature*, 02/16/21)
In January, *Nature* asked more than 100 immunologists, infectious-disease researchers and virologists working on the coronavirus whether it could be eradicated. Almost 90% of respondents think that the coronavirus will become endemic — meaning that it will continue to circulate in pockets of the global population for years to come.
- [Pandemic cut U.S. life expectancy by a year during the first half of 2020](#) (*The Washington Post*, 02/18/21)
Life expectancy in the United States fell by a full year during the first half of 2020, a staggering decline that reflects the toll of the covid-19 pandemic as well as a rise in deaths from drug overdoses, heart attacks and diseases that accompanied the outbreak. Americans can now expect to live as long as they did in 2006, according to the provisional data released by the National Center for Health Statistics.

Resources

ASPR/ TRACIE: Cybersecurity Resources

As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthcare facilities large and small must be proactive and move quickly to protect themselves from cyberattacks that could directly impact the health and safety of patients and the community at large. There are steps that can be taken to effectively care for patients, manage consequences,

and maintain business practices and readiness during such an event. ASPR TRACIE recently published [Healthcare System Cybersecurity: Readiness & Response Considerations](#) and recorded a [related webinar](#) that walks users through the document.

New Pediatric E-Journal: Living with COVID-19

The 62nd issue of [NHPCO's Pediatric E-Journal](#) is now available. This issue focuses on various aspects of living with COVID-19 in connection with pediatric palliative, hospice, and end-of-life care. Articles range from self-kindness for the interdisciplinary team to conversation scripts to memorialization ideas.

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