

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 02/22/21

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.

“When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.” – Peter Marshall

Provider Updates

New Data Boost Calls for Single COVID-19 Vaccine Dose

A single dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine offers 92.6% efficacy in new calculations based on data submitted to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), researchers report. "Deferral of the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will enable more individuals within our high-risk and health care worker priority groups to receive a single dose," Danuta M. Skowronski, MD, told Medscape Medical News. "Since a single dose provides swift and substantial protection exceeding 90%, and a second dose provides little added benefit in the short term, second dose deferral will maximize the benefits of scarce vaccine supply while the pandemic risk remains elevated." Read more on the [Medscape website](#).

Recently Vaccinated People Need Not Quarantine Post COVID-19 Exposure

People who have received the full course of COVID-19 vaccines can skip the standard 14-day quarantine after exposure to someone with the infection as long as they remain asymptomatic, U.S. public health officials advised. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Wednesday the vaccines have been shown to prevent symptomatic COVID-19, thought to play a greater role in the transmission of the virus than asymptomatic disease. Visit the [Reuter's Health website](#) to learn more.

FDA Update (02/19/21)

As part of the [FDA's effort to protect consumers](#), the agency issued a warning letter to [Dr. Paul's Lab](#) for selling an unapproved product with fraudulent COVID-19 claims. The company sells "COVID-Aid Tincture," and misleadingly represents the product can treat or prevent COVID-19 in people.

Health Care Workers Face Mental Health Crisis

[ABC News reports](#) (02/16/21), "Experts say some doctors, nurses and other [health workers on the frontlines](#) will have to face a mental health reckoning after being in the trenches fighting the global pandemic."

Studies Show Pfizer, Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines Less Potent Against Aggressive Variant

In early January, researchers from the University of Texas and Pfizer published a preprint study suggesting that Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine could protect against a mutation discovered in the U.K. and South Africa. Two weeks later, though, news emerged that Pfizer and its partner BioNTech were working on booster shots to protect against new variants. Now there's more evidence that Pfizer's vaccine—as well as the other authorized mRNA vaccine from Moderna—will need to be updated to fend off aggressive new variants of COVID-19. The data are raising concerns among some analysts of "breakthrough" cases of COVID-19, even in vaccinated people, and the potential for more lockdowns this summer. Read more on the [FiercePharma website](#).

Resources

COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment in the Home: Navigating Complexity of Donning & Doffing

The safety of care professionals and patients is paramount while caring for people with infectious diseases, including those with confirmed or suspected severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection and coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Existing policies and protocols for donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE) are primarily for institutional settings such as hospitals, not for home visits for patient care. We describe a protocol for donning and doffing PPE in home settings. Download the article from the [Annals of Family Medicine](#) (Jan/Feb 2021).

Reflections on “Our COVID-19 Buddy System”

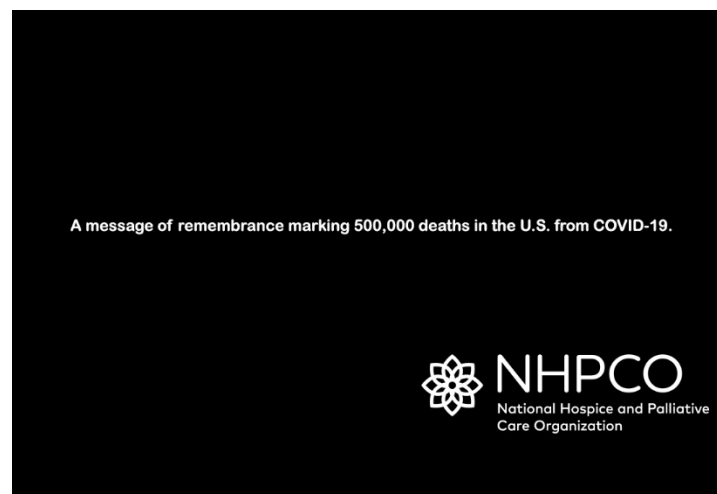
An unspoken commitment came to light that in order for us to care for our community who were in great suffering, we needed to care for each other as female colleagues, as fellow mothers, as kindred social workers. Our slow and steady flow buffered the intensity of fear and unpredictable temperament of the coronavirus. As we put trust in each other we found strength and resilience in what we coined our “COVID-19 Buddy System”. Read this article from the [Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care](#) (Feb 2021).

Washington Post Journalists & Photographers on Three Days in America

On three of the deadliest days in the deadliest month, Washington Post reporters and photographers fanned out across the nation to capture the stories of the people and places closest to the lives lost. Those cover include hospice nurses from the Heart of Hospice. Find this powerful story on [The Washington Post website](#).

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NHPCO Message of Remembrance Upon 500,000 COVID-19 Deaths in the U.S.



Share the [video message](#) on the National Hospice YouTube Channel.
Find the [NHPCO written statement](#) online.