

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 02/24/21

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.

“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.” – Christopher Reeve

Provider Updates

FDA Analysis of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine Finds It Safe, Effective

The FDA [released an analysis](#) of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday morning that supports its authorization for emergency use. Learn more in this [story from NPR](#) (02/24/21).

California Coronavirus Variant More Contagious and Possibly Deadlier

In an article available on the [Live Science website](#), they report: “Scientists in California are increasingly worried about the state's ‘homegrown’ coronavirus variant, with studies now showing that the variant is more transmissible than earlier strains and may be more resistant to current vaccines, according to news reports. Researchers said their findings mean that B.1.427/B.1.429 should be considered a ‘variant of concern’ similar to the variants that emerged in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Brazil.”

Relaxed CDC Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People May be Coming 'Soon'

As [reported in The Hill](#): “The CDC could soon release more relaxed safety recommendations for people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The recommendation includes people who have been fully vaccinated [no longer need to quarantine](#) if they are exposed to someone who is infected with COVID-19. The CDC said the new guidance applies only to those who have had both doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines — the shots currently available to the U.S. public. The agency also said that at least two weeks must have passed since the second dose was administered, as studies have shown that full immunity is not built up until a couple of weeks after completing the vaccine regimen.”

Resources

Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Meeting

The [FDA has posted an announcement](#) about a meeting on February 26. The meeting presentations will be heard, viewed, captioned, and recorded through an online teleconferencing platform. The committee will meet in open session to discuss EUA of the Janssen Biotech Inc. COVID-19 Vaccine for active immunization to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 in individuals 18 years and older.

Experiences with Online Last Aid Courses for Palliative Care Education during the Pandemic

An online course was created to enable continued and safe public palliative care education. The online platform enabled course participation from people previously unable or unwilling to attend, namely caregivers to dying relatives and younger people. Instructors displayed an ability to teach online. However, some instructors expressed frustration over reduced interaction and technical challenges, which was echoed by participant ratings

showing that many lacked social networking with fellow participants. Nonetheless, this pilot study demonstrates the feasibility of the online Last Aid course. Find this open-access article available on the [Healthcare website](#).

Counteracting COVID-19 Healthcare Inequity: Supporting Antiracist Practices at Bedside

Bedside clinicians recognize the injustice of “color blind” approaches because they witness the devastation of racist policies and their effects in the COVID-19 pandemic first-hand. Whether in crisis capacity—where rationing decisions happen through command centers and triage committees—or in contingency prior to the declaration of crisis—where rationing may happen by individual hospitals, units and even bedside clinicians (Butler et al. 2020)—more can be done to support clinicians striving to counteract racism at bedside. Learn more in this article from the [American Journal of Bioethics](#) (Feb 2021).

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