

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 02/26/21

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.

“It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up.” – Vince Lombardi

### Policy Update

#### **Storage and Transportation Conditions for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**

Today, the FDA announced that it [is allowing undiluted frozen vials of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) to be transported and stored at conventional temperatures commonly found in pharmaceutical freezers for a period of up to two weeks. This reflects an alternative to the preferred storage of the undiluted vials in an ultra-low temperature freezer between -80°C to -60°C (-112°F to -76°F). The change is being reflected in updates to the [fact sheet for healthcare providers](#) administering vaccine.

### Provider Update

#### **Reported Adverse Events**

CDC has updated their page on [reported adverse events](#) after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Results from monitoring efforts are reassuring. Some people have no side effects. Many people have reported only mild side effects after COVID-19 vaccination. Adverse events described on this page have been reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). VAERS accepts reports of any adverse event following vaccination, even if it is not clear the vaccine caused the problem.

#### **Articles of Interest from Medscape**

- [Fauci Introduces New Acronym for Long COVID at White House Briefing](#) (02/24/21)  
Scientists are working overtime to gain knowledge of the long-term effects of COVID-19, said Anthony Fauci, MD, during a wide-ranging briefing at the White House. "Many of you are now aware of what had long been called 'long COVID,' " said Fauci, the White House COVID-19 Response Team's chief medical adviser. "But actually, what that really is **post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection**, which we're now referring to as '**PASC**,' or **P-A-S-C**." He noted that the National Institutes of Health launched an initiative yesterday to further study the phenomenon, which Fauci called "alarming" and "puzzling."
- [Moderna Variant-Specific Vaccine Ready to Study](#) (02/24/21)  
Moderna completed manufacturing a version of its vaccine to prevent infection by B.1.351, a variant first identified in South Africa. The company is sending doses of this mRNA-1273.351 booster vaccine to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for evaluation in a clinical trial, the company announced today. The move is part of a strategy for addressing this and other variants of concern.
- [New Coronavirus Variant Found in NYC, Northeast](#) (02/25/21)  
Two research teams have identified a new coronavirus variant in New York City and across the Northeast that could evade natural immune responses and some monoclonal antibody treatments, according to CNN. The variant, called B.1.526, has appeared in diverse neighborhoods in New York City and is "scattered in the Northeast," the researchers said.

### **California Coronavirus Strain May Be More Infectious—and Lethal**

As [Science Magazine](#) reports, “A new strain of the pandemic coronavirus, first identified and now spreading in California, appears to be somewhat more transmissible and heighten patients’ risk of admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) and death, according to a preprint reporting lab studies and epidemiological data.”

### **Pandemic Grief Could Become its Own Health Crisis**

“As the nation mourns more than 500,000 lives lost a year into the coronavirus pandemic, another pandemic wave is building — of grief. It poses a potential public health crisis of its own.” Read the article in [The Washington Post](#).

## **Resources**

### **New Pediatric E-Journal: Living with COVID-19**

The 62nd issue of [NHPCO’s Pediatric E-Journal](#) is now available free of charge. 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. Visit the [pediatric e-journal archive](#) for previous issues.

### **Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations**

CDC updated their [toolkit for community-based organizations](#). This toolkit is designed for staff of organizations serving communities affected by COVID-19. These CBOs could include social service organizations, faith-based organizations, YMCAs/YWCAs, fraternities, school organizations (e.g., PTAs/PTOs), meal delivery services, senior centers, and others.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Business, Schools, and Homes**

CDC updated their [cleaning and disinfecting guidance](#). This guidance is intended for all Americans, whether you own a business, run a school, or want to ensure the cleanliness and safety of your home. Slowing the spread of COVID-19 requires all of us to practice social distancing and other daily habits to prevent infection. Cleaning and disinfecting public spaces, workplaces, businesses, and schools is part of that strategy, and can also be applied to your home.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Locations on VaccineFinder**

The [CDC VaccineFinder](#) helps people find the latest information on COVID-19 vaccine availability at certain providers and [pharmacies in some states](#) (Alaska, Tennessee, Indiana, and Iowa). In other states, information may be limited while more providers and pharmacies are added in the coming weeks.

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