

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/02/21

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.

"Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground." — Rosa Parks

Provider Updates

CDC Adds New Medical Conditions to COVID-19 High Risk List

As reported in [Medscape](#), "The CDC has added several new medical conditions to its list of those that predispose adults to more severe COVID-19 illness. Conditions that had previously been categorized as "might be" placing individuals at increased risk — but now are listed as high risk — include type 1 diabetes (in addition to type 2), moderate-to-severe asthma, liver disease, dementia or other neurological conditions, stroke/cerebrovascular disease, HIV infection, cystic fibrosis, and overweight (in addition to obesity). Substance use disorders, which hadn't been previously listed, are now also considered high-risk. The new list groups together certain categories, such as chronic lung diseases (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, cystic fibrosis, etc) and heart conditions (heart failure, coronary artery disease, hypertension, etc)."

FDA Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Dose Update

An [FDA news release](#) announced two revisions regarding the number of doses per vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. First, the maximum number of extractable doses per vial is now 11, with a range of 10-11 doses. Second, the FDA authorized the availability of an additional multi-dose vial in which each vial contains a maximum of 15 doses, with a range of 13-15 doses. These revisions are reflected in the [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\) and Prescribing Information](#) (PDF). The dosing regimen remains unchanged.

FDA Authorized OTC COVID-19 Tests

On March 31, the FDA announced authorization of several over-the-counter tests for COVID-19 when used for serial screening. In addition, one serial screening test was authorized for use in a point-of-care (POC) setting without a prescription, and an additional screening test was authorized for POC use with a prescription. In total, the FDA has authorized three tests with serial screening claims (testing asymptomatic individuals multiple times on a routine basis). Read more in the [FDA news release](#).

Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Protects for 6 Months or More

The Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine affords at least 6 months of protection after the second dose, the companies announced yesterday. Data shows that the vaccine affords 100% protection against severe COVID-19,

as defined by the CDC. The vaccine was also effective in preventing COVID-19 in South Africa, where the variant of concern B.1.351 was first identified. Read more in [Medscape](#).

COVID-19 Third Leading Cause of US Deaths in 2020

As reported by [Reuters](#), "COVID-19 was the primary or contributing cause of 378,048 deaths in the United States last year, with a particularly high toll among the elderly, according to two reports released on Wednesday in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). The COVID-19 mortality rate made it the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2020 after heart disease and cancer, one analysis found."

Resources

CDC: Domestic Travel Allowable for Vaccinated People

People who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine can travel safely within the United States. Individuals do NOT need to get tested or self-quarantine if they are fully vaccinated or have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months. People should still wear a mask, socially distance and avoid crowds, the agency says. Learn more from the [CDC](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Black Americans Drops

As reported by [Reuters](#), "The percentage of U.S. Black adults who say they have either received a vaccine shot for COVID-19 or want one as soon as possible rose to 55% in March from 41% in February, a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) showed."

The Johns Hopkins 30-Minute COVID-19 Briefing Recording

[Watch the recording](#) of the Friday March 26 recording of experts from the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center for updates on the state of the pandemic and the public health response.

Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults Knowledge Synthesis

Social isolation and loneliness in older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: A knowledge synthesis of pre- and post-COVID 19 interventions and vulnerability and resilience factors examined the literature on interventions designed to reduce social isolation and loneliness either (1) arising from outbreak-related social and physical distancing measures or (2) naturally occurring (pre-COVID19), and their effectiveness at promoting well-being in older adults. [Read more](#) (PDF).

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