

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/07/21

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.

"Don't count the days, make the days count." – Muhammad Ali

Provider Update

Volunteering and Community Service: Opportunities for Healthcare Professionals

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, many healthcare professionals have expressed an interest in helping. The U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services are sharing three great options for healthcare professionals who want to join the COVID-19 response – and there are many opportunities for lay people to serve as well. [Visit the HHS website](#) to learn more about the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals, the Medical Reserve Corps, and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. As we move into the Hurricane season in the U.S., these organizations are often sources of support.

U.S. COVID-19 Cases Rise for Third Straight Week

"Twenty-seven out of 50 states reported increases in new cases last week compared with the previous seven days, according to the Reuters analysis. The average number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals rose 4% to more than 37,000 in the week ended April 4, breaking a streak of 11 weeks of falling admissions. Health officials have expressed concerns about the increase in travel around the Easter holiday and school spring breaks, at a time when more infectious variants of the coronavirus are circulating." Visit the [Reuters website](#) to read more.

Nearly Half of New U.S. Infections are in Just 5 States

The [Associated Press reports](#), "Nearly half of new coronavirus infections nationwide are in just five states — a situation that is putting pressure on the federal government to consider changing how it distributes vaccines by sending more doses to hot spots. New York, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and New Jersey together reported 44% of the nation's new COVID-19 infections, or nearly 197,500 new cases, in the latest available seven-day period, according to state health agency data compiled by Johns Hopkins University. Total U.S. infections during the same week numbered more than 452,000."

Delirium a Stand-out Coronavirus Symptom in People with Dementia

An article [published by McKnight's](#) reports, "Delirium was found in more than 36% of hospitalized patients with dementia versus less than 12% of those without dementia. Notably, patients with dementia and COVID-19 also were less likely to report subjective symptoms such as shortness of breath, muscle aches, chills, nausea, or headaches compared with patients without dementia. This may have been due to relatively poor awareness or memory."

California Reports First Case of Double Mutation Variant from India

Researchers at Stanford University have identified a case of a new coronavirus variant with two mutations, which was first detected in India last month. The variant was found in a patient in the San Francisco Bay Area. The "double mutation" could be of concern if the variant is more transmissible or deadly, but health officials have not yet called it a "variant of concern." Visit the [Becker's Hospital Review website](#) to learn more.

About 40,000 Children Have Lost a Parent to COVID-19

[HealthDay News reports](#), “An estimated 37,300 to 43,000 children have lost a parent to COVID-19, according to a research letter published online April 5 in JAMA Pediatrics. According to the researchers, the model suggests that each COVID-19 death leaves 0.078 children aged 0 to 17 parentally bereaved -- a 17.5 to 20.2 percent increase in parental bereavement absent COVID-19. Black children are disproportionately affected by loss of a parent, comprising only 14 percent of the U.S. child population but 20 percent of those losing a parent to COVID-19.”

COVID's Been a Mental Marathon, but Let's Not Hit the Wall Yet

An article available on the [Medscape website](#) reports, “The psychic trauma resulting from COVID remains understated and takes various forms. There is trauma from almost dying yourself or the death of a loved one. Trauma in healthcare workers and first responders who witnessed countless people die, despite their most earnest and selfless efforts. Trauma from seeing the refrigerated trucks used as morgues, too many to park away from view. Trauma from ceaseless work, powerlessness, fear of becoming ill or infecting one's family, from not knowing when this will end.”

NIH Begins Study of Allergic Reactions to COVID-19 Vaccines

A clinical trial is underway to determine whether people who are highly allergic or have a mast cell disorder are at increased risk for an immediate, systemic allergic reaction to the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. A systemic allergic reaction to a vaccine occurs in one or more parts of the body beyond the injection site. Visit the [NIH website](#) to learn more.

Resources

Survey Reveals COVID-19 has More Americans Thinking About Their Demise

An [article in Modern Healthcare](#) reports that the pandemic has led more Americans to think about their own or their loved ones' death. Market research firm Ipsos surveyed 1,000 adults between March 8-9, and about 29% of respondents said that the COVID-19 pandemic increased their likelihood to write down their wishes and values for end-of-life care. (*Registration on the Modern Healthcare website is required to access this article.*)

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