

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/21/21

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 powerful attitude awakens inner strength, energy, motivation, and initiative." – Remez Sasson

Policy Update

Public Health Emergency Declaration Renewed

On April 15, 2021, Secretary Becerra issued a Renewal of the Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists Nationwide as the Result of the Continued Consequences of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. Read this announcement on the HHS [Public Health Emergency website](#).

PEW Stateline Article: COVID Renewing Push to Expand Palliative Care

In a thoughtful article published by PEW Stateline, journalist Michael Ollove examines the value of community-based palliative care in light of the COVID-19 pandemic on the U.S. Ollove spoke with a number of thought leaders, providers, and family members to underscore the value of a community-based palliative care model. Read, "[Long-Haul COVID Renews Push to Expand Palliative Care](#)," on the PEW website.

Provider Update

Pfizer, Moderna Say Booster Shots Probably Needed

[WebMD Health News](#) reports, "People who've received both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna coronavirus vaccines will probably need a booster shot this year, top executives for those two pharmaceutical companies said this week. Pfizer CEO said people who've gotten both doses would likely need a third shot within 12 months and might need an annual shot thereafter."

New U.S. COVID Cases Fall 0.4% Last Week

An [article from Reuter's](#) reports, "The number of new COVID-19 cases in the US fell by 0.4% for the week ending April 18, following **four consecutive weeks of increase**, but the country still logged almost 70,000 new cases per day last week as variants continue to spread. The average number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 climbed by 5% to over 41,000, marking the third straight weeks of increase, while related fatalities dropped 2.8%."

Rapid COVID-19 Home Tests to be Sold at CVS, Walgreens and Walmart Beginning this Week

[USA Today reports](#), "Consumers will be able to buy rapid coronavirus tests **without a prescription** this week at three national chain retailers, an expansion that comes as the nation's vaccination effort accelerates and states relax distancing requirements and mask mandates. Abbott Laboratories' BinaxNOW coronavirus self-test kits will be shipped to CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens and Walmart locations, and also will be sold online. The two-test kit, which last month received Food and Drug Administration emergency-use authorization for serial screening, will cost \$23.99, the company said."

Resources

Johns Hopkins Health Policy Forum

On May 4, 2021, 11-11:45 a.m. ET, Johns Hopkins University will welcome Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for a virtual conversation with Johns Hopkins Medicine Dean and CEO Dr. Paul Rothman as part of the Johns Hopkins Health Policy Forum. The conversation will cover a range of topics including an update on the national strategy to respond to COVID-19, the power of combining medicine and public health, and a reflection on career pathways and progression. [Learn more online.](#)

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