

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/28/21

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 always seems impossible until it's done." – Nelson Mandela

Policy Update

Biden Administration Advances Emergency Covid Workplace Safety Rules

An [article in Politico](#) reports, "The Labor Department sent the safety standards to the OMB for review, the first step before they are released publicly and go into effect. OMB'S Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs is expected to take roughly two weeks before it publishes the requirements, which are then likely to take effect immediately. The rules are expected to require employers to supply their workers with masks, have a written plan to avert exposure in the workplace and take other precautions that could kick up complaints from businesses over costs as more states relax pandemic restrictions."

Provider Update

CDC: If You're Vaccinated, You Don't Need To Mask Outdoors

[The Washington Post](#) reports, "Federal health officials said Tuesday that fully vaccinated people can go without masks outdoors when walking, jogging or biking, or dining with friends at outdoor restaurants. Officials said the changed guidance was aimed at helping those who are fully inoculated return safely to old routines, while encouraging others to get their shots to counter highly contagious new variants."

Fauci Says U.S. Should See Turning Point in the Pandemic 'within a few weeks'

If the U.S. continues its vaccination pace, "literally within a few weeks, we're going to start to see a turning around of the dynamics," Fauci said on Monday. "Not down to no infections," he said. "If you're waiting for classic measles-like herd immunity, that's going to be a while before we get there. But that doesn't mean we're not going to have a significant diminution in the number of infections per day and a significant diminution in all of the parameters, namely hospitalizations and deaths." Visit the [CNBC website](#) for more details.

COVID-19 Vaccines Protect Against New York Variant

An [article from WebMD News](#) reports, "The Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines appear to be effective against the B.1.526 variant first identified in New York, according to *The New York Times*. The variant seems to be more contagious than the original strain and has contributed to an increase in COVID-19 cases in New York. Two recent independent studies have found that the vaccines effectively prevent serious illness and death from the variant."