

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 04/30/21

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.

**"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."**

– Jimmy Dean

### Policy Update

#### **Deanne Criswell Takes Oath as FEMA's 12th Administrator**

Administrator Criswell took the oath after receiving unanimous support from the Senate. As Administrator, she is tasked with reducing the loss of life and property, protecting the nation from all hazards and leading the nation through a comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation. Read the [FEMA press release](#).

### Provider Update

#### **CDC Director Sees 'a really hopeful decline' as Covid Cases in the U.S. Fall**

[NBC News](#) reports, "After a worrisome uptick in Covid-19 cases in the United States in recent weeks, there are encouraging signs that the situation is beginning to stabilize, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New reported infections fell by 21 percent over the past week, with the most recent seven-day average coming in at just over 54,400 cases per day."

#### **New At-home Pill to Treat Covid Could be Available by Year End**

[CNBC reports](#), "Pfizer's experimental oral drug to treat Covid-19 at the first sign of illness could be available by the end of the year. Health experts say the drug, taken by mouth, could be a game changer because people newly infected with the virus could use it outside of hospitals. Researchers hope the medication will keep the disease from progressing and prevent hospital trips."

#### **CVS To Offer In-Store Mental Health Counseling**

A [story from NPR](#) reports, "The company is leading the way in trying to fill gaps in access to mental health by piloting a counseling service in some of its retail stores. And by negotiating with insurance companies to cover visits, it's also trying to reduce the cost of mental health care."

#### **CDC Guidelines Coming on Long COVID**

[Medscape Medical News](#) reports, "The CDC is finalizing new guidelines to help clinicians diagnose and manage long COVID, or post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV2 infection. In a daylong congressional hearing on Thursday, John Brooks, MD, a medical epidemiologist at the CDC's Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, testified that the guidelines were going through the clearance process at the agency, but would be forthcoming. The guidelines, which were developed in collaboration with newly established long-COVID clinics and patient advocacy groups, will 'illustrate how to diagnose and begin to pull together what we know about management,' of the complex condition."

## FDA Update:

- As part of the FDA’s effort to protect consumers, the agency issued a warning letter to an operator of one website, [www.pharmacygeoff.md](http://www.pharmacygeoff.md) for marketing unapproved drugs for multiple diseases, including COVID-19. Drugs that have circumvented regulatory safeguards may be contaminated, counterfeit, contain varying amounts of active ingredients or contain different ingredients altogether. Consumers can visit [BeSafeRx](#) to learn about how to safely buy medicine online.
- As part of the FDA’s effort to protect animals, the agency issued a warning letter to [Group Cyrenne Inc. dba HomeoAnimal](#). The company sells a “Virus Defense Kit” containing “Immunopet,” “Silverpet,” and “Cordyceps,” and misleadingly represents that the products can mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19 in pets. The company also markets unapproved drugs for conditions such as cancer, epilepsy, heartworm, parvovirus, and anemia. The FDA requested the company take action to cease the sale of any unapproved and unauthorized products for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. Pet owners concerned about COVID-19 should consult with their veterinarians.

## Resources

### **Johns Hopkins Health Policy Forum with CDC Director**

The Johns Hopkins Health Policy Forum -- a series of discussions with leaders at the forefront of health policy development and implementation – is hosting a discussion with CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky on May 4, 2021, 11:00-11:45 am EDT. [Register online](#).

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