

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/03/21

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.

"Give light and people will find the way."

– Ella Baker

Policy Update

TSA Extends Mask Mandate Aboard Flights Through Summer as Travel Increases

[NPR reports](#), "Wearing a face mask will continue to be a requirement at airports, aboard commercial flights and on other public transportation across the country through the summer. The federal mask mandate, which was set to expire on May 11, will remain in effect through Sept. 13, according to updated guidance issued by the Transportation Security Administration on Friday. The rule, which also applies to buses and rail systems, was first put in place by President Biden shortly after he took office in January."

Provider Update

FDA Update

On April 30, the FDA [revoked the emergency use authorization \(EUA\) of the Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System](#), which was authorized for use in decontaminating compatible N95 respirators for multiple-user reuse by healthcare personnel. The FDA revoked the EUA in response to Battelle's request for voluntary withdrawal of the authorization. In response to changing customer needs, as of March 31, 2021, Battelle has ceased all Battelle CCDS decontamination site operations and marketing activities.

Reaching 'Herd Immunity' Is Unlikely in the U.S.

[The New York Times](#) reports, "Now, more than half of adults in the United States have been inoculated with at least one dose of a vaccine. But daily vaccination rates are slipping, and there is widespread consensus among scientists and public health experts that the herd immunity threshold is not attainable — at least not in the foreseeable future, and perhaps not ever. Instead, they are coming to the conclusion that rather than making a long-promised exit, the virus will most likely become a manageable threat that will continue to circulate in the United States for years to come, still causing hospitalizations and deaths but in much smaller numbers."

Recall: Hand Sanitizers May Contain Toxic Methanol

[WebMD Health News](#) reports, "Nearly a dozen scented hand sanitizer sprays sold at Ulta, TJ Maxx, and Marshalls stores nationwide are being recalled because they may be contaminated with methanol, a chemical that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin."

Resources

NASEM Roundtable Webinar on Equity-Centered Approaches to Vaccines

The Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity is hosting a webinar that will explore current and historical

efforts to vaccinate communities of color and indigenous communities to evaluate lessons learned and their applicability to COVID-19 currently. “COVID-19 Vaccines: Leveraging Historical Successes (and Failures) for Equity-Centered Approaches,” will be offered on May 13, 2021, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. ET. [Register for the webinar.](#)

Decision-Making for Place of Care and Death in Older People

Researchers out of the University College London conducted a rapid review of current evidence, and implications for COVID-19 reports, “Our review aimed to explore key factors that influence place of care and place of death decisions in older people, including the choice of where people may be cared for and die. A secondary aim was to investigate key factors that influence the process and outcome of these decisions in older adults. Findings from this review are then explored through the context of healthcare challenges during COVID-19.” [Download a PDF of the study.](#)

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