

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/05/21

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.

"The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have."
– Vince Lombardi

Policy Update

HHS Announces \$250 Million to Support Vaccinations in Underserved Communities

As part of the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced the availability of approximately \$250 million to develop and support a community-based workforce who will serve as trusted voices sharing information about vaccines, increase COVID-19 vaccine confidence, and address any barriers to vaccination for individuals living in vulnerable and medically underserved communities. This funding will help community-based organizations to mobilize community outreach. Read the [HHS press release](#).

White House Shifts to Demand-Based Strategy for State Vaccine Allotments

[The Washington Post](#) reports, "The White House told states that coronavirus vaccine doses they choose not to order will become available to other states — the most significant shift in domestic vaccine distribution since President Biden took office, and part of an effort to account for flagging demand in parts of the country."

Legislation Introduced Regarding Veterans and COVID-19

The Department of Veterans Affairs has received monies allocated for COVID relief and supply chain issues. Two pieces of legislation – there were [25 Veterans bills in total](#) – were passed yesterday in the House of Representatives regarding these funds.

- [H.R. 2911](#)- "VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021" Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs and for other purposes.
- [H.R. 2082](#)- "VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act" To make certain improvements to the supply chain of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Provider Update

U.S. COVID-19 Cases Drop as Spring Wave Slows

[WebMD Health](#) reports, "COVID-19 cases continue to decline in the U.S. as the spring surge that began in March subsides, according to [The Washington Post](#). The daily average of new infections has reached the lowest point since mid-October, falling below 50,000. More than 40 states are reporting lower cases, and hospitals in Michigan and the Midwest aren't seeing the same rush of patients as in mid-April."

What We Know About the Indian Variant

Reuters Health reports, "India has recorded the world's sharpest spike in coronavirus infections this month, with political and financial capitals New Delhi and Mumbai running out of hospital beds, oxygen and medicines. Scientists are studying what led to an unexpected surge, and particularly whether a variant of the novel coronavirus first detected in India is to blame. The variant, named B.1.617, has been reported in some 17 countries, raising global concern. Read more on the [Medscape website](#).

Resources

Qualitative Study of Bereaved Relatives' EOL Experiences During Pandemic

A [study published in the journal *Palliative Care*](#), shares, "...end of life experiences for families are likely to have been deleteriously impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Understanding how families' needs can be met during a global pandemic will have current/future relevance for clinical practice and policy."

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