

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/10/21

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 problem is a chance for you to do your best."**

– Duke Ellington

### Policy Update

#### **HHS Announces Nearly \$1 Billion from American Rescue Plan for Rural COVID-19 Response**

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing the availability of nearly \$1 billion to strengthen COVID-19 response efforts and increase vaccinations in rural communities. As part of the Biden Administration's commitment to expanding access to vaccines and ensuring equity in the COVID-19 response, the Health Resources and Services Administration, a part of HHS, will increase the number of vaccines sent to rural communities, expand testing and other COVID-19 prevention services, and work to increase vaccine confidence by empowering trusted local voices with additional funding for outreach efforts in underserved communities. Read the [HHS press release](#).

### Provider Update

#### **CDC Acknowledges Airborne Transmission**

[The Washington Post](#) reports, "Federal health officials revised coronavirus guidance on Friday to acknowledge that people can get infected by inhaling very fine, aerosolized particles carrying the virus, following warnings from health experts since last year. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised that airborne transmission is one of several ways the virus can spread, adding that people more than six feet away from others indoors can become infected, according to the agency's website."

#### **It May Be Time to Relax Indoor Face Mask Mandates**

[CNN reports](#) that, "The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be updating its guidance almost in real time, as more Americans get vaccinated, said Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The CDC [relaxed its guidance](#) last month on wearing masks outdoors, but still advises both vaccinated and unvaccinated people to still wear masks [in indoor public spaces](#), such as a mall, movie theater or museum."

#### **With Long Covid, History May Be Repeating Itself Among People of Color**

An [article from STAT](#) reports, "Long Covid — one name for the mysterious multitude of problems that persist after Covid-19 infections have cleared — affects all populations to some degree; it also afflicts people regardless of whether they had mild or even no symptoms, or needed ICU care to survive. But researchers and health care clinics fear that the same reasons that caused certain racial and ethnic groups to experience higher infection rates and illness severity may be responsible for driving disparities in the treatment of long Covid. Many vulnerable communities lack access to quality care, or face heightened burdens to convince providers that their conditions are real.

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