

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 05/12/21

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.

"In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact." – Les Brown

Provider Update

New U.S. COVID Weekly Cases Fall to Lowest Since September

An [article from Reuters](#) reports, "The number of new COVID-19 cases across the US dropped 17% to less than 290,000 for the week that ended Sunday, marking the fourth consecutive week of decline and the fewest weekly cases since September, while COVID-19 deaths were down 1.3% to 4,756, the lowest weekly toll since July. Only seven states recorded increases in new cases, and the average number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 fell for the second week in a row. More than a third of the country's population has been fully vaccinated as of Sunday, and 46% has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, according to the U.S. CDC."

Broader Nursing Scope Should Stay

[Medscape Medical News](#) reports, "The new [Future of Nursing report](#) released today recommends that the broader scope of practice many states allowed for nurses during the pandemic should be made permanent. That recommendation is one of dozens the authors detailed in the National Academy of Medicine's 'The Future of Nursing 2020–2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity.' Under full practice authority, access to primary care and quality of care has improved, the report states."

FDA Update

Items from the [FDA May 11 COVID-19 Update](#) include:

- As part of the FDA's effort to protect consumers, on May 6, 2021, the agency issued a warning letter to [Covalon Technologies Inc.](#) for selling unapproved products with fraudulent COVID-19 claims. Consumers concerned about COVID-19 should consult with their health care provider.
- On May 10, the FDA issued a [press release](#) about FDA's expansion of the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to include individuals 12 through 15 years of age.

WHO Says Indian COVID Strain 'a Variant of Concern'

"As COVID-related deaths exceed 4,000 a day in India, the World Health Organization says a coronavirus variant first found in that nation is of global concern. The U.S. CDC has defined the Indian strain as "a variant of interest." Read more on the [WebMD Health](#) website.