

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 07/07/21

NHPCO publishes the COVID-19 Update once a week on Wednesdays. Should there be breaking news of importance to the provider community, we will communicate that as needed.

*"Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it."  
– James Baldwin*

### Policy Updates

#### **White House to Send 'Surge Teams' to Delta Variant Hot Spots**

The White House is readying COVID-19 "surge teams" to send to communities with low vaccination rates to help combat the rapidly spreading delta variant of the coronavirus. The teams will work with local public health authorities to conduct contact tracing and will distribute supplies as needed or requested by states, such as therapeutics and additional tests. Learn more in this article from [The Hill](#).

### Provider Update

#### **Delta is Now the Dominant Coronavirus Variant in the U.S.**

[NPR reports](#), "The highly contagious delta variant now accounts for more than 51% of COVID-19 cases in the U.S., according to new estimates released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The delta variant is already causing 74.3% of infections in Western states, including Utah and Colorado, and 58.8% of infections in Southern states like Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, according to CDC estimates. The good news is the vaccines being used in the U.S. all appear to be highly effective at protecting against serious disease, hospitalization and death. And public health officials are urging the roughly 140 to 150 million people who remain unvaccinated to get vaccinated."

#### **Use of Non-NIOSH-Approved or Decontaminated Disposable Respirators**

On June 30, the [FDA](#) issued an updated Letter to [Health Care Personnel and Facilities](#) stating that the FDA no longer authorizes use of non-NIOSH-approved or decontaminated disposable respirators. The FDA has revoked the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for non-NIOSH-approved disposable respirators (revocation effective July 6, 2021) and the EUAs for decontamination and bioburden reduction systems (revocation effective June 30, 2021). As of the effective date of the [revocations](#), these devices are no longer authorized for use by health care personnel in health care settings.

#### **Comparing the COVID-19 Vaccines: How Are They Different?**

Vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson are being administered in the U.S. right now, and others are on track to do the same. This article maps out a comparison of the most prominent COVID-19 vaccines. Learn more on the [Yale Medicine website](#).

### **Most States' COVID-19 Vaccination Plans Created Without Advice on Health Equity**

“Most states created their vaccine distribution plans without getting advice from a health equity committee, and often without input from minority communities, a U.S. study suggests. An analysis of publicly available COVID-19 vaccination plans for each of the 50 states and Washington, DC, revealed that 43 states created a committee to develop a vaccine distribution plan, but a health equity plan was referenced in just 20 of the plans. Even when health equity was considered, minority populations often were not represented, according to the research letter in JAMA Network Open.” Visit the [Medscape website](#) to read this article from Reuters Health.

## **Resources**

### **COVID-19 Vaccines Safety and Diversity Videos**

Diverse researchers and scientists who mirror the diversity in our communities have been developing vaccines to help protect us from COVID-19. Learn why you and your loved ones should get vaccinated as soon as a vaccine is available to you in this [FDA video](#) (1:22) in English and American Sign Language.

### **Prevalence of Palliative Care Consultation in Deceased COVID-19 Patients**

“Palliative care was consulted for roughly half of deceased patients with COVID-19 and those patients were less likely to undergo invasive procedures or life-sustaining treatments and spent less time in the ICU at the end of life.” [Download this article](#) from JPM, “The Prevalence of Palliative Care Consultation in Deceased COVID-19 Patients and Its Association with End-of-Life Care.”

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*There is still time to register for the [2021 Virtual Conference](#) that will focus on healthcare transformation. A timely topic given the experience of the past year.*