

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 07/28/21

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.

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."
– Henry Stanley Haskins

Policy Updates

AHRQ Consensus Statement: Guidance for Health Care Leaders

The Patient Safety Network has published a [consensus statement](#) based on input from an international panel of individuals with expertise in health leadership, health care, and public health, which outlines 10 imperatives to guide health and public leaders during the post emergency stage of the pandemic. Topics include logical health, preparing for future emergencies, managing the backlog of delayed care, and the importance of sustaining learning, innovations and collaborations that arose during the pandemic.

Provider Updates

CDC Updates Mask Guidance

[CNN has reported](#), "To prevent further spread of the Delta variant, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its mask guidance on Tuesday to recommend that fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors when in areas with "substantial" and "high" transmission of COVID-19, which includes nearly two-thirds of all US counties. New unpublished data showing that vaccinated people infected with the Delta coronavirus variant can have as much virus as those who are unvaccinated is the primary driver for the CDC's latest mask guidance change, a source involved with the decision process told CNN. Overall, vaccinated people still play a small role in transmission and breakthrough infections are rare."

Groups Support Vaccine Mandate for Health Care Workers

The American Nurses Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and more than 50 other health care organizations are asking for a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all US health care workers in an effort to bolster vaccination levels and reduce spread of the Delta variant. Read more from [The Washington Post](#).

New Vaccine Mandates Coming for Government Employees and Health Care Workers

"Across the country, officials are rolling out new requirements for mandatory vaccines for public employees — and the possibility of penalties if they fail to comply — as cases of the delta variant of the coronavirus rise sharply and vaccination rates stall," [NPR reports](#).

Rare 'Breakthrough' COVID Cases are Causing Alarm, Confusion

"When you hear about a breakthrough infection, that doesn't necessarily mean the vaccine is failing," Dr. Anthony Fauci said in a Senate panel this week. The shots are holding up, he said, even in the face of the highly contagious delta variant that is burning through unvaccinated communities. Health authorities have warned that even though the COVID-19 vaccines are incredibly effective -- the Pfizer and Moderna ones about 95% against symptomatic infection in studies -- they're not perfect. No vaccine is. [Read more from the Associated Press](#).

Intranasal COVID Vaccines Could Be 'Holy Grail' of Vaccination

There are seven intranasal COVID-19 vaccines in development could offer two additional layers of protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection, experts say. This could also be beneficial for those with a fear of needles. [Read more from Medscape](#).

Fauci Says U.S. Headed in 'Wrong Direction' on Coronavirus

The United States is in an "unnecessary predicament" of soaring COVID-19 cases fueled by unvaccinated Americans and the virulent delta variant, Dr. Anthony Fauci said. He described himself as "very frustrated." [Read more from Modern Healthcare](#).

Resources

Pandemic Fatigue -- Yes, It Is Real!

[Medscape reports](#), "A recent NBC News report stated that up to 95% of US workers are considering quitting their job or possibly changing careers. A year of unrelenting stress has left us distressed and unhappy. The toll has been widespread. According to a CBS News Report, gun violence claimed more than 180 lives over the July 4th weekend and mass shootings have totaled more than 230 for the calendar year. (A mass killing is defined as four or more victims killed, not including the shooter.)

But the toll has not been merely violence. According to the American Association for Cancer Research and oncology experts, breast health exams and Pap screenings are way down compared with pre-pandemic levels. People have stopped taking care of themselves. The fatigue and disinterest are real. Pandemic fatigue has set in, and Americans are suffering."

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