

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 08/04/21

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.

“Life doesn’t get easier or more forgiving; we get stronger and more resilient.” – Steve Maraboli

Policy Updates

CDC Issues Eviction Order in Areas of Substantial and High Transmission

CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky today signed an order determining the evictions of tenants for failure to make rent or housing payments could be detrimental to public health control measures to slow the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This order will expire on October 3, 2021 and applies in United States counties experiencing substantial and high levels of community transmission levels of SARS-CoV-2. The eviction moratorium allows additional time for rent relief to reach renters and to further increase vaccination rates. In the context of a pandemic, eviction moratoria—like quarantine, isolation, and social distancing—can be an effective public health measure utilized to prevent the spread of communicable disease. Eviction moratoria facilitate self-isolation and self-quarantine by people who become ill or who are at risk of transmitting COVID-19 by keeping people out of congregate settings and in their own homes. Read the [CDC press release](#).

FEMA Extends Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering Assistance

FEMA has extended funding for Emergency Non-Congregate Sheltering during the COVID-19 public health emergency until Nov. 30, 2021, as the agency continues to help protect people during their recovery from hurricanes and wildfires. Under this policy, FEMA reimburses state, tribal and territorial governments partial cost of providing non-congregate sheltering for people who must evacuate during a disaster. We have made significant progress over the past six months in our fight against COVID-19. To date, 164 million Americans are fully vaccinated, including 80% of seniors and more than 60% of all adults. But the Delta variant is different. It’s more contagious, with the variant spreading more than twice as easily from one person to another. [Read the press release](#) on the FEMA website.

FDA Updates

In an [FDA update](#) from July 30, 2021, the following will be of interest to providers:

- The FDA authorized an extension for the shelf life of the refrigerated Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine, allowing the product to be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius for six months.
- As part of the FDA’s effort to protect consumers, the agency issued a warning letter to the operator of [www.rxmedkart.com](#) for selling unapproved drugs for multiple diseases, including COVID-19. Consumers can visit [BeSafeRx](#) to learn about how to safely buy medicine online.

Provider Update

CDC Says 7-day Average of Daily U.S. Covid Cases Surpassed Peak Last Summer

[CNBC reports](#), “The seven-day average of daily coronavirus cases in the U.S. surpassed the peak seen last summer when the nation didn’t have an authorized Covid-19 vaccine, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said Monday, citing data published over the weekend. U.S. Covid cases, based on a seven-day moving average, reached 72,790 on Friday, according to data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That’s higher than the peak in average daily cases seen last summer, when the country was reporting about 68,700 new cases per day, according to the CDC.”

U.S. Pediatric COVID-19 Cases Up 64% in One Week

“COVID-19 vaccine initiations rose in U.S. children for the second consecutive week, but new pediatric cases jumped by 64% in just 1 week, according to new data. As of July 22, the total number of reported cases was over 4.12 million in 49 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, and Guam, and there have been 349 deaths in children in the 46 jurisdictions reporting age distributions of COVID-19 deaths.” Read the full article from [Medscape Medical News](#).

Delta Variant Could Drive Herd Immunity Threshold Over 80%

In another article from [Medscape Medical News](#), it is reported, “Because the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 spreads more easily than the original virus, the proportion of the population that needs to be vaccinated to reach herd immunity could be upwards of 80% or more, experts say. The original SARS-CoV-2 virus required an estimated 67% of the population to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. For Delta, those threshold estimates go well over 80% and may be approaching 90%.”

Lambda Variant Shows Vaccine Resistance

[Reuters reports](#), “The Lambda variant of the coronavirus, first identified in Peru and now spreading in South America, is highly infectious and more resistant to vaccines than the original version of the virus the emerged from Wuhan, China, Japanese researchers have found. In a paper posted on Wednesday on bioRxiv ahead of peer review, the researchers warn that with Lambda being labeled a ‘Variant of Interest’ by the World Health Organization, rather than a ‘Variant of Concern,’ people might not realize it is a serious ongoing threat.”

Federal Assistance Team Arrives at Louisiana Hospital to Help with Covid-19 Patients

[CNN reports](#), “A 33-member federal Disaster Medical Assistance Team arrived Monday at a major Louisiana hospital to provide support for what the hospital called ‘the highest volume of Covid-19 patients the region has experienced thus far due to the Delta variant.’ Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge said an average of one infected patient is being admitted every hour. The hospital was treating 155 Covid-19 patients, with about one third of them in the intensive care unit, according to a statement from the hospital.”

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2021 Interdisciplinary Conference Transitions to Virtual Event

With safety a priority, NHPCO has announced that the [2021 Interdisciplinary Conference](#) will be an entirely virtual event. While the opportunity to gather as a provider community will be missed, the IDC21 will offer a robust, virtual professional development experience. Online registration is being updated and will be available soon.