

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 09/01/21

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.

“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many races one after another.” – Walter Elliot

Policy Updates

Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials

[Read the transcript](#) from the August 31, 2021, COVID-19 Press Briefing at the White House. The briefing contains information about the Federal response and management of the current COVID-19 PHE.

FDA Update

On August 25, the FDA issued a [Letter to Health Care Providers](#) alerting health care facility risk managers, procurement staff and health care personnel to stop using certain N95 respirators manufactured by Shanghai Dasheng Health Products Manufacture Co., Ltd. (Shanghai Dasheng). Read the [FDA Update](#) posted on August 27, 2021.

CDC Experts May Not Back Widespread COVID-19 Boosters

“A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advisory panel on Monday indicated it could take a substantially different approach to booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines than the one proposed by the Biden administration. Members of the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) said the evidence on boosters is not clear and indicated it would likely consider a risk-based approach that would prioritize residents of long-term care facilities and health workers rather than all eligible Americans at once.” Read more in this [article from The Hill](#).

Provider Update

44 Places Are at the Highest COVID-19 Risk Level

More than 38 million people in the U.S. have had confirmed coronavirus infections and more than 635,000 have died of COVID-19. Thousands of new cases are reported daily nationwide. [Visit the NPR website](#) to learn more.

100,000 More COVID Deaths Seen Unless U.S. Changes Its Ways

[The Associated Press](#) reports, “The U.S. is projected to see nearly 100,000 more COVID-19 deaths between now and Dec. 1, according to the nation’s most closely watched forecasting model. But health experts say that toll could be cut in half if nearly everyone wore a mask in public spaces. In other words, what the coronavirus has in store this fall depends on human behavior.”

Pandemic Fatigue -- Yes, It Is Real!

“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.” Read this [blog on the Medscape website](#).

U.S. Mortality Rates Will Remain High and Childbearing Will Lag Through 2023

[The Washington Post](#) reports, “The federal government expects U.S. mortality rates to be elevated by 15 percent over pre-pandemic norms in 2021 and not return to normal levels until 2023, according to a report released Tuesday by the trustees of the Social Security and Medicare programs.” (*Subscription may be required to access this article.*)

Resources

New Resource from HHS/ASPR/TRACIE

Download [The Work of Hospital Allied and Supportive Care Providers During COVID-19](#) for the most valuable, timely, and helpful information for you and your colleagues on the significant contributions made by supportive care providers and healthcare engineering representatives during the COVID-19 pandemic. The articles in this issue focus on three categories: home care and hospice (including a virtual acute care delivery at home model), the role of allied healthcare providers (e.g., physical, occupational, and respiratory therapy), and engineering and environmental changes in response to the pandemic. The articles feature authors at the regional, state, and local levels, who represent urban, suburban, and rural areas of the country.

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Register for the [2021 Interdisciplinary Conference](#) by September 7 and NHPCO members will save \$100 off final registration rates. Education sessions of interest to our COVID-19 Update readers:

- *4 Tools for Caregiver Well-Being During a Pandemic*
- *Data Strategy Supports a Successful Pandemic Response*
- *Pediatric Virtual Caregiver Support During COVID-19*
 - *Post Pandemic Volunteer Programs: Best Practices*
- *Secondary and Vicarious Trauma, Resilience and COVID-19*
 - *Supporting Grieving Families During COVID-19*
- *The Good Change Road Map: The Road Beyond COVID-19*

Check out all [IDC21 educational sessions](#) that are available on-demand through December 31, 2021 - including CE/CME availability.