

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 09/08/21

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.

“We will either find a way or make one.” – Anibal Barca

Policy Updates

FDA to Hold Advisory Committee Meeting to Discuss Pfizer COVID-19 Booster

The administration recently announced a plan to prepare for additional COVID-19 vaccine doses, or “boosters,” this fall, and a key part of that plan is FDA completing an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of these additional vaccine doses. Read the [FDA press release](#) online.

CDC Announces More Than \$300 Million in Funding for Community Health Workers

The CDC awarded more than \$116 million in year one, of a three-year, \$348 million program, to organizations for community health worker (CHW) services to support COVID-19 prevention and control. CDC also awarded more than \$6 million of a four-year \$32 million program for training, technical assistance, and evaluation. Availability of this funding was announced on March 25 as part of a larger effort to improve health equity in CDC’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the [CDC press release](#).

Officials Want the White House to Slow Its COVID Booster Shot Rollout

[NPR reports](#), “The leaders of two federal health agencies are urging the White House to rethink its plan to roll out COVID-19 vaccine boosters starting Sept. 20. The leaders of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are telling White House COVID-19 advisers that there is not enough data right now to make a blanket recommendation on boosters and that it may be prudent to start boosters with older adults first, pending FDA authorization. That’s according to a source who has knowledge of the situation but is not authorized to speak publicly.”

Provider Update

Fauci Foresees 'Full Vaccination' Including Booster Shots

An article from [WebMD Health News](#) reports, “The phrase ‘fully vaccinated’ will eventually change to mean a person has gotten a booster shot — not just the initial doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, predicted Anthony Fauci, MD, the White House chief medical adviser. Data from an Israel study involving more than 1 million people that shows giving a booster shot after the two-dose Pfizer vaccine produced a ‘substantial positive impact.’”

Mu COVID Variant That May Resist Vaccines Found in 49 U.S. States

“Nebraska is the only state in the United States to have not detected a case of the Mu variant of COVID-19, which may render vaccines less effective. Since being first identified in Colombia in January, the Mu

variant has spread to 41 countries, including the United States. Most prevalent in Hawaii and Alaska, the variant accounts for less than one percent of cases in the U.S., but its potential to be more transmissible or resist vaccines and natural immunity have health officials keeping tabs on the mutation.” Visit the [Newsweek](#) website to learn more.

A Long Look at Long Haulers

An [article from Medscape](#) reports, “With the number of pediatric infections with SARS-CoV-2 rising it is not surprising that children with persistent symptoms are beginning to accumulate. Who are these pediatric ‘long haulers’ and do they differ from their adult counterparts? The answer is far from clear because the terms ‘long COVID’ and ‘long hauler’ are not well defined. But, I suspect we will find that they will be similar in most respects.”

ANA Urges HHS to Declare Nurse Staffing Shortage a National Crisis

“The American Nurses Association (ANA), representing the interests of the nation’s 4.2 million nurses, urges the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to declare the current and unsustainable nurse staffing shortage facing our country a national crisis. In a letter to HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra, ANA calls for the Administration to acknowledge and take concrete action to address the current crisis-level nurse staffing shortage that puts nurses’ ability to care for patients in jeopardy.” Visit the [Nursing World website](#) to learn more.

Breakthrough Infections Twice as Likely to Be Asymptomatic

[Medscape Medical News](#) reports, “People with breakthrough COVID-19 infections are two times more likely to be completely asymptomatic and are about two-thirds less likely to be hospitalized, compared with those who are unvaccinated, according to a new observational study. Individuals infected with COVID-19 after receiving their first or second dose of either the Pfizer, Moderna, or AstraZeneca vaccine experienced a lower number of symptoms in the first week of infection, compared with those who did not receive a COVID-19 vaccine, reported the authors of the report in The Lancet Infectious Diseases.”

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There’s still time to register for the [2021 Interdisciplinary Conference](#). Check out all [IDC21 educational sessions](#) that are available on-demand through December 31, 2021 - including CE/CME availability.