

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 09/15/21

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.

*“A river cuts through rock, not because of its power, but because of its persistence.”
– James N. Watkins*

Policy Updates

White House Issues Executive Order on Vaccine Mandate

On September 9, 2021, the White House issued an announcement of stepped-up efforts to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on the policy that will require health workers and volunteers to be vaccinated if they work for providers that participate in Medicare and Medicaid. Read the President Biden’s [Executive Order](#) on the White House website. NHPCO [issued a statement](#) that day in response to this announcement.

HHS Announces the Availability of \$25.5 Billion in COVID-19 Provider Funding

“The Biden-Harris Administration announced on Sep 10, 2021, that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is making \$25.5 billion in new funding available for health care providers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding includes \$8.5 billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources for providers who serve rural Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or Medicare patients, and an additional \$17 billion for Provider Relief Fund (PRF) Phase 4 for a broad range of providers who can document revenue loss and expenses associated with the pandemic.” Learn more on the [HHS website](#). NHPCO members will find a Policy Alert (09/10/21) on the [Alerts & Updates page](#) of the website.

FDA Will Follow the Science On COVID-19 Vaccines for Young Children

“As regulators, the FDA recognizes they have an important task ahead that will require them to act expeditiously while undertaking an extremely meticulous and thoughtful review once they receive requests to authorize a COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use or submissions for approval of a COVID-19 vaccine for this population.” Read the press announcement on the [FDA website](#).

Provider Update

'Many, Many' More Vaccine Mandates Needed to End Pandemic

[WebMD Health News](#) reports, “Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, stated on 9/12/2021 that 'Many, Many' More Vaccine Mandates Needed to End Pandemic Getting the pandemic under control could take ‘many, many’ more vaccine mandates. The U.S. is in a ‘very difficult period’ of the pandemic due to the more contagious Delta variant and high level of transmission among unvaccinated people, Fauci said.”

Fauci Supports Vaccine Mandates for Air Travel

“Air travelers should get a COVID-19 vaccine to fly and be around other people, Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said in an interview.” Access a [WebMD News Briefs](#) online.

Flu and COVID-19 Vaccines Can Be Given on the Same Day: CDC and AAP

[Medscape Medical News](#) reports, “Patients can now receive their COVID-19 vaccine and flu shot during the same visit, according to updated recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The guidance allowing for coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other immunizations, including the flu shot, was issued in mid-May of this year, and was restated in influenza vaccine recommendations released August 27. The American Academy of Pediatrics soon followed suit, announcing earlier this week that for children eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine (age 12 and older), AAP recommendations allow for both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to be administered during the same visit.”

Pfizer COVID Booster Will Likely be Ready September 20 but Moderna May be Delayed

“The U.S. will likely start to widely distribute Pfizer Covid-19 booster shots during the week of Sept. 20, but the rollout for Moderna’s vaccine could be delayed, per White House chief medical advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci. Only the Pfizer vaccine booster may get Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention approval in time for a rollout the week of Sept. 20. People who received Moderna shots may have to hold off for longer as the company waits for regulators to sign off on a third dose.” Read more on the [CNBC website](#).

Study: Moderna COVID-19 Immunity Lasts 6 Months

“Immunity from the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine lasts at least six months, and there is no indication that fully vaccinated people will need a booster shot, a small study published Tuesday by Science found. The vaccine also appears to produce long-lasting protection against the coronavirus in people of all ages, including those 70 and older who are at higher risk for serious illness, the data showed.” Visit the [UPI website](#) to learn more.

Resources

Webinar: COVID-19 and Crisis Standards of Care: The Fourth Wave and the Future

COVID-19 has fundamentally changed the delivery of health care services worldwide, forcing difficult choices on health professionals and laying bare many pre-existing health, medical, and public health sector frailties. A fourth wave of the pandemic, driven by the Delta variant, extreme shortages of key resources have again brought the necessity of crisis standards of care to the forefront of the minds of many clinicians and patients. This free webinar, hosted by the National Academy of Medicine on September 17 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EDT, will feature discussions on past and current challenges in ethically allocating scarce resources in the face of surging demand, including the healthcare staffing crisis, and identify possible solutions to real-time issues and ways to ensure fair decisions are made even when systems are strained. Find more [information and online registration](#).

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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.