

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 10/07/20

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.

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”– Harriet Tubman

Policy Update

Azar Renews the Declaration of Public Health Emergency for COVID-19

On October 2, 2020 Secretary Alex Azar issued a [Renewal of Determination That A Public Health Emergency Exists](#). This Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists was previously issued on January 31, 2020, and then renewed on April 21, 2020 and again on July 23, 2020. The most recent renewal will be effective on October 23, 2020. This renewal means that the public health emergency will be extended until January 21, 2021.

Trump Calls Off COVID-19 Relief Negotiations, then Expresses Willingness to Sign Bill

On October 6, 2020, President Trump called off negotiations between members of the administration and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi over a possible next round of relief to combat the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic until after the election, and said that the Republican-controlled Senate should focus on confirming President Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett. However, later in the evening, he said the Congress should pass a bill which includes \$25 billion of support for airlines, \$135 billion for Paycheck Protection Program loans to small businesses, and a \$1,200 for every American. While Speaker Pelosi agreed to pass a stand-alone bill to support airlines last week, at the time, Republicans blocked the bill as proposed.

Nonetheless, as of this morning, White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows confirmed that negotiations remain ongoing, saying that he and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin are considering stand-alone bills which would include aid for airlines, funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, and direct payments to Americans. President Trump spoke with Secretary Mnuchin this morning, and has sent other tweets indicating his eagerness to sign a bill soon. Read more about the state of play in [Politico](#).

Update on Testing and Abbot Webinar

The Administration has started their deployment of 150 million rapid point-of-care tests across the country, 50 million of which are going to those serving vulnerable populations including 10 million for home health and hospice providers. Abbott will host their next educational webinar in support of their BinaxNOW COVID-19 tests on October 9, 2020. This webinar is designed to reinforce the Training Toolkit and highlight key points that should be kept in mind during BinaxNOW COVID-19 and NAVICA implementation. Friday, October 9 from 4:00 EST – 5:00 EST: [Registration link](#).

Provider Update

Trends in COVID-19 Incidence After Implementation of Mitigation Measures - Arizona

The CDC reports that the [number of COVID-19 cases in Arizona](#) stabilized and then decreased after sustained

implementation and enforcement of statewide and locally enhanced mitigation measures, beginning approximately 2 weeks after implementation and enforcement of mask mandates and enhanced sanitation practices began on June 17; further decreases were observed during July 13–August 7, after statewide limitations and closures of certain services and businesses.

People with Certain Medical Conditions Update

[CDC Update on Summary of Recent Changes](#) - Revisions were made on October 6, 2020 to reflect recent data supporting increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19 among adults with COVID-19 who have obesity, who are overweight, or who smoke or have a history of smoking. These revisions also make the document more explicit about data and implications for adults and for children. The listed underlying medical conditions in children were also revised to indicate that these conditions might increase risk to better reflect the quality of available data currently. This reflects the fact that there are less data available for children and does not imply that children are not at risk. We are learning more about COVID-19 every day, and as new information becomes available, CDC will update the information. Visit the CDC website for [addition information on this issue](#).

Resources

FEMA Document on COVID-19 Considerations, Strategies and Resources

This document, [COVID-19: Considerations, Strategies, and Resources for Crisis Standards of Care in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care \(PALTC\) Facilities](#), provides PALTC facilities an overview of general considerations, potential strategies, and existing resources that they may use to inform changes to their operations and care processes. It is intended to complement, not replace, existing state and/or local guidance and plans for implementing CSC. Similarly, sample tools and resources are provided for illustrative purposes only and should be modified to locally adopted protocols as appropriate.

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