

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 11/20/20

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.

*“The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.” — Malcolm X*

### Provider Update

#### **Preparing for Crisis Should Be Part of Your Quality Agenda**

Getting prepared for a crisis should be part of any organization’s quality agenda. You’ve got to develop what one would call the “quality infrastructure” to deal with future potential events. A strong quality infrastructure should be part of your culture, so you’re fully equipped to deal with whatever disaster comes your way, and you’re not making up [your response] on the fly. Read the article on the [IHI website](#).

#### **New Information from the CDC**

- [Characterization of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities - 39 States](#), October 2020  
By October 15, 2020, in 39 states with available data, 22% of ALFs reported one or more cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff members. Among ALF residents with COVID-19, 21% died, compared with 3% who died among the general population with COVID-19.

Information to share with patients and families:

- [Social Media Toolkit: Holidays](#)
- [Celebrating Thanksgiving](#)
- [Holiday Celebrations](#)

#### **Fever, Symptom Screening Misses Many Coronavirus Cases**

Temperature and COVID-19 symptom checks like the ones used at schools and doctor's offices have again proved inadequate for spotting coronavirus infections and preventing outbreaks. A study of Marine recruits found that despite these measures and strict quarantines before they started training, the recruits spread the virus to others even though hardly any of them had symptoms. None of the infections were caught through symptom screening. The study, published Wednesday in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), has implications for colleges, prisons, meatpacking plants and other places that rely on this sort of screening to detect infections and prevent outbreaks.

## **Resources**

### **The Johns Hopkins 30-Minute COVID-19 Briefing**

As the pandemic surges to dangerous, record-breaking levels, Johns Hopkins is launching the first in a series of bi-weekly webcast briefings on the CRC, beginning November 20, 2020. The series will provide timely, accessible updates on the state of the pandemic and public health responses and will offer opportunities for live Q&A with leading experts from the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. [Find today's briefing online.](#)

### **What Matters? Palliative Care, Ethics, and the COVID-19 Pandemic**

An article in the [Journal of Bioethics](#) explores the interface between the pandemic, ethics, and the role of palliative care. We argue that the ethical discourse should be broader, and that the principles that underly the discipline of palliative care provides a solid ethical foundation for the care of all patients through the coronavirus pandemic.

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