

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 12/09/20

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.

“When one must, one can.”
— Charlotte Whitton

Provider Update

Vaccine Resources Information

CDC updated their resource page on [vaccinations](#). The webpage provides information for healthcare professionals on preparing for vaccinations, preparing patients, and the process for vaccine approval.

Testing Updates

- **FDA Authorizes New Test:** FDA authorized the [first diagnostic test for at home collection of patient samples to detect both COVID-19 and influenza A and B \(flu\)](#).
- **Guidance for Antigen Testing for COVID-19:** The CDC updated their [Interim Guidance for Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2](#). On December 5, 2020. Revisions were made on December 5, 2020 including:
 - New section on processing of antigen tests, reflecting what has been learned on how to minimize the risk of false results.
 - Revised section on evaluating the results of antigen tests, introducing a new testing algorithm, and reflecting what has been learned about the performance of antigen tests and the need to implement confirmatory testing.
- **Update from CDC:** CDC updated [Testing](#) information on who should get tested, how to get tested and how to understand testing results.
- **COVID Testing in Nursing Homes:** CMS released a new FAQ document on [COVID-19 Testing and Nursing Homes](#).
- **CMS Policy on Antigen Testing:** CMS released a new FAQ related to [Updated CLIA SARS-CoV-2 Molecular and Antigen Point of Care Test Enforcement Discretion](#).

PPE Update

The FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the [Lumin LM3000 Bioburden Reduction UV System](#), the first ultraviolet-C (UV-C) light based bioburden reduction system for emergency use in bioburden reduction of certain N95 respirators when there are insufficient supplies of filtering facepiece respirators resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Week is National Immunization Week

The CDC recently added a [2020 NIVW Digital Media Toolkit](#) which also includes newly posted radio public service announcements encouraging essential workers to get their flu shot. CDC also has a [video](#) about COVID-19 vaccine development which provides update on where we are with the COVID-19 vaccine plus other resources.

Resources

COVID-19 Long-Haulers

Last week, the NIAD hosted its first [workshop on long-term health effects of COVID-19](#). The event included input from public health experts, medical researchers, government officials, and patients (see article in [The New York Times](#)). There is currently no definitive estimate of how many people suffer these long-term cardiac, neurological, respiratory, or other effects following recovery from SARS-CoV-2 infection—commonly referred to as “long haulers”—but it is clear that long-term COVID-19 sequelae will become a major public health problem, if even only a small fraction of individuals are affected. To address this threat, workshop attendees recommended that the syndrome be assigned an official, distinct medical term in order to increase awareness and prompt investigations necessary to more fully characterize the phenomenon.

CDC Print Resources Updated

The [CDC’s print-only materials](#) are developed to support COVID-19 recommendations. All materials are free for download.

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