

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



NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 08/17/20

NHPCO has created this update for hospice and palliative care providers to share recent news and helpful links.

"The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."
— Nelson Mandela

Provider Update

COVID-19 Surges Back into Nursing Homes in Coronavirus Hot Spots

It is reported in *The Washington Post* that Federal data cited by two long-term care associations this week show that the number of new cases in nursing homes bottomed out at 5,468 during the week of June 21 and has climbed steadily upward to 8,628 for the week of July 19, the last week available. That is a 58 percent increase that roughly parallels the rise in U.S. cases overall during that time. Read on [The Washington Post website](#).

Medical Device Shortages During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

The FDA has taken many actions to help ensure that patients and health care providers have timely and continued access to high-quality medical devices to respond effectively to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These actions include issuing Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) and guidance documents to provide recommendations and help expand the availability and capability for various diagnostic, therapeutic, and protective medical devices in high demand during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The FDA continues to monitor the healthcare landscape and supply chain for resulting shortages, or meaningful disruptions to U.S. supply, of certain medical devices. See the page ["Medical Device Shortages During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency"](#) on the FDA website along with the FDA [device shortage list](#).

FDA Clears Saliva Test for Covid-19, Opening Door to Wider Testing (STAT News)

The Food and Drug Administration on Saturday authorized emergency use of a new and inexpensive saliva test for Covid-19 that could greatly expand testing capacity. The new test, which is called SalivaDirect and was developed by researchers at the Yale School of Public Health, allows saliva samples to be collected in any sterile container. It is a much less invasive process than the nasal swabs currently used to test for the virus that causes Covid-19, but one that has so far yielded highly sensitive and similar results. Find this article on the [STAT website](#).

Mutation of The Coronavirus Discovered in Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is facing a strain of the new coronavirus that the Philippines, which faces the region's largest outbreak, is studying to see whether the mutation makes it more infectious. The strain, earlier seen in other parts of the world and called D614G, was found in a Malaysian cluster of 45 cases that started from someone who returned from India and breached his 14-day home quarantine. The Philippines detected the strain among random Covid-19 samples in the largest city of its capital region. Learn more at the [Bloomberg website](#).

Resources

Commentary in *Supportive Care in Cancer*

An article of interest was published in the journal, *Supportive Care in Cancer*. Read [“The clash between palliative care and COVID-19.”](#)

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Reminder for Members

Upcoming NHPCO Member-Only Webinars

Two upcoming webinars exclusively for NHPCO members.

COVID-19 Testing Issues and the Impact on Hospice Providers.

September 9 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

Hogan Lovells attorneys Brooke Bumpers and George Ingham will share their expertise and experience as they present on issues surrounding staff testing for COVID, to include managing testing requirements, human resource and employment issues, nursing home testing considerations, privacy and reporting, financial responsibility, and laboratory considerations. NHPCO Members: Log in on the NHPCO website and then [visit this page to find the registration link](#).

Government Funding Webinar #3 - Strategies, Reporting, and Risk: Provider Relief Funding and PPP Loan Forgiveness.

September 21, 2020 at 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET.

Ted Cuppett, CPA from The Health Group, and Mark Sharp, CPA and Aaron Little, CPA from BKD will present on the recently released guidance from HHS and the SBA regarding Provider Relief Funding and SBA loan forgiveness. This webinar will assist hospices in their strategic planning, completing the submissions, and recognition of risk. Additionally, the latest information available will be provided regarding taxability and tax reporting for taxable hospices. NHPCO Members: Log in on the NHPCO website and then [visit this page to find the registration link](#).

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The banner features a collage of images: a suspension bridge, a city skyline, a large bell, a lake with mountains, and a cow. The text is overlaid on a purple and blue geometric background.