

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 09/02/20

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 best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time."*

— Abraham Lincoln

### Policy Update

#### **Trump Administration Announces Provider Relief Fund Application for Assisted Living Facilities**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing assisted living facilities (ALFs) may now apply for funding under the Provider Relief Fund Phase 2 General Distribution allocation. Like other providers applying for Phase 2 funding, eligible ALFs will receive 2 percent of their annual revenue from patient care. Helpful information for these providers can be found at the Provider Relief Fund website, which includes previously recorded Phase 2 application webinars, frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other information on how to apply through the recently simplified application process. Assisted living facilities, like all providers applying for the current Phase 2 General Distribution funding will have until September 13, 2020 to begin their application by entering their Tax Identification Number (TIN) for validation. [Learn more on the HHS website.](#)

### Provider Update

#### **You Can Get COVID-19 Again: What to Know**

An [article published in Healthline](#) provides information of note.

- Researchers have found that a man contracted the new coronavirus a second time months after his original illness.
- The case suggests reinfection can occur a few months after recovering from an initial bout of COVID-19.
- However, it appears his immune system protected the man from serious symptoms.

#### **FDA Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

The FDA has, jointly with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), issued a [warning letter](#) to Lattice Biologics, Ltd., for marketing an unapproved amniotic fluid product, sometimes referred to as AmnioBoost, to mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose or cure Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) related to COVID-19. Find the [FDA Daily Round-Up](#) online.

#### **FDA Issues Warning Regarding Ineffective PPE**

The FDA alerted health care facility risk managers, procurement staff, and health care providers that medical gowns sold by Laws of Motion PPE, including surgical gowns, have potential quality issues that affect the level of fluid barrier protection and should not be used as personal protective equipment at this time. The [letter to Health Care Providers](#) includes information for reporting problems with the Laws of Motion PPE gowns, including surgical gowns.

## **Resources**

### **IHI - Virtual Learning Hour Special Series: Psychological Personal Protective Equipment**

This program is part of the [IHI Virtual Learning Hour Caring for Caregivers Special Series](#), delivered in partnership with Well Being Trust. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented “second wave” of mental health and well-being concerns, especially for health care workers on the front lines. This Virtual Learning Hour discusses ["psychological PPE"](#) (personal protective equipment) to promote mental health and well-being, including steps both individuals and team leaders can take to protect themselves and their staff.

## **Reminder for Members**

### **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](#).