

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



## NHPCO COVID-19 Update – 09/23/20

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.

*“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” — St. Francis of Assisi*

### Provider Update

#### **Counterfeit Respirators / Misrepresentation of NIOSH-Approval**

Counterfeit respirators are products that are falsely marketed and sold as being NIOSH-approved and may not be capable of providing appropriate respiratory protection to workers. NIOSH-approved respirators have an approval label on or within the packaging of the respirator (i.e. on the box itself and/or within the users’ instructions). Additionally, an abbreviated approval is on the FFR itself. You can verify the approval number on the [NIOSH Certified Equipment List \(CEL\)](#) or the [NIOSH Trusted-Source](#) page to determine if the respirator has been approved by NIOSH. NIOSH-approved FFRs will always have one the following designations: N95, N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, P95, P99, P100. [Read updated CDC guidance](#) (09/22/20).

#### **CDC Publishes — Then Withdraws — Guidance On Aerosol Spread Of Coronavirus**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention posted guidance Friday evening saying that aerosol transmission might be one of the "most common" ways the coronavirus is spreading — and then took the guidance down on Monday. The now-deleted updates were notable because so far the CDC has stopped short of saying that the virus is airborne. [See story from NPR](#).

#### **U.S. death toll from COVID-19 surpasses 200,000**

The U.S. death toll from COVID-19 surpassed 200,000 this week — reaching what was once the upper limit of some estimates for the pandemic's impact on Americans. Some experts now warn that the toll could nearly double again by the end of 2020. [See story from NPR](#).

### Resources

#### **Ensuring Adequate Palliative and Hospice Care During COVID-19 Surges**

Relieving physical and emotional distress and supporting patients and families through illness, even when cure is not possible, is foundational to medicine. Yet, while states and health systems have devoted much work to the fair allocation of scarce critical care resources, novel therapeutics, and potential vaccines during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, many triage protocols assume all patients who need palliative and hospice care will have access to these services. [Read this article from the JAMA Network](#).