November 13, 2020

Academy News

2020 Virtual Policy Conference
There’s still time to register & earn contact hours by viewing the conference sessions and poster presentations on-demand. Sessions will be available through December 31, 2020.

The conference opening video, In Crisis and Calm: Leading with Purpose, embodied the conference theme and honors the incredible work of nurses during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 Courage Awards video recognizes the courageous efforts nurses have made during the COVID-19 pandemic to save lives, advance health equity, and protect communities. Congratulations again to Ukamaka Oruche, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN, Marissa Pietrolungo, MSN, RN, CCRN, Doris Grinspun, PhD, RN, FAAN, LLD(hon), Dr(hc), O.ONT., and Jason Farley, PhD, MPH, ANP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, AACRN, who were selected as the COVID-19 Courage Award recipients for their outstanding contributions in the areas of innovation, leadership, policy, and science.

Fellow Highlights

Betty R. Ferrell, PhD, MA, FAAN, FPCN, CHPN, RN, and William E. Rosa, PhD, MBE, ACHPN, FAANP, FAAN, co-authored an article titled “The Urgency of Spiritual Care: COVID-19 and the Critical Need for Whole-Person Palliation” in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management.

Diane Lynn Spatz, PhD, RN-BC, FAAN, co-authored an article titled “Birth and Breastfeeding in the Hospital Setting during the COVID-19 Pandemic” in The American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing.

Judith A. Paice, PhD, RN, ACHPN, FAAN, Dorothy Wholihan, DNP, AGPCNP-BC, ACHPN, FPCN, FAAN, William E. Rosa, PhD, MBE, ACHPN, FAANP, FAAN, Polly Mazanec, PhD, ACNP-BC, AOCN, ACHPN, FPCN, FAAN, and Carol O. Long, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAAN, co-authored an article titled “Palliative Nursing: The Core of COVID-19 Care” in the Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing.

Joyce Batcheller, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAONL, FAAN, was featured in a series of webinars from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center titled “Lessons Learned from the Military: Nursing’s Response to a Global...

News & Updates from National Organizations

American Nurses Association (ANA) released a webinar: “How to Protect Yourself: Use and Re-Use of PPE.”

CNN published an article titled “10 million people have been infected with coronavirus in the US -- and the rates keep rising in 43 states.”

International Council of Nurses (ICN) published an article titled “Success of mass COVID-19 vaccination will depend on nurses.”


Kaiser Health News (KHN) published an article titled “‘Breakthrough Finding’ Reveals Why Certain COVID Patients Die.” KHN also published an article titled “Nursing Homes Still See Dangerously Long Waits for COVID Test Results.”

Missoulian published an article titled “Virus fight: Risk becomes real for some Blackfeet.”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) hosted its annual meeting titled “Confronting Urgent Threats to Human Health & Society: COVID-19 and Climate Change (NAM Annual Meeting)”

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) released a featured story titled “National Academies Launch New COVID-19 Strategic Science Initiative.”

National Governors Association (NGA) released a policy memo titled “Update On COVID-19 Vaccine Development.”

The Washington Post published an article titled “Pfizer’s coronavirus vaccine is more than 90 percent effective in first analysis, company reports.”


Federal Government Response

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- ACL hosted a webinar titled “HCBS Innovation During COVID–Medicaid HCBS Payers & Providers.”
- ACL hosted a webinar titled “SHIP and SMP Volunteer Engagement During COVID-19.”
- ACL published a press release titled “Vaccine Information for Long-Term Care Facilities and Rural Stakeholders.”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC released the “CDC Media Telebriefing Transcript on Operation Warp Speed.”
- CDC continues to hold calls with stakeholders: “Leveraging Existing Resources to Meet the Challenges Faced by People Who Use Drugs or Who Have Substance Use Disorders During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- CDC continues to update data on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the United States.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
CMS announced that Medicare beneficiaries can receive coverage of monoclonal antibodies to treat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) with no cost-sharing during the public health emergency (PHE).

CMS released a toolkit to accelerate state efforts to rebalance long-term care systems and enhance home and community-based services for eligible Medicaid beneficiaries.

CMS launched a new online platform - the Nursing Home Resource Center - to serve as a centralized hub bringing together the latest information, guidance and data on nursing homes that is important to facilities, frontline providers, residents and their families, especially as the fight against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) continues.

CMS announced its commitment to ensure all Americans, including the nation’s seniors, have access to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine at no cost when it becomes available.

CMS released data showing that 21% of Medicare beneficiaries report forgoing non-coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) care due to the pandemic, and nearly all - 98% - of beneficiaries have taken preventative measures to keep themselves safe from the virus.

CMS continues to hold calls with clinicians, hospitals, other facilities, and states in an effort to keep stakeholders updated on COVID-19 efforts. Find more general information on COVID-19.

Department for Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS announced that it is preparing to provide ancillary supply kits to help healthcare workers who will be administering COVID-19 vaccines.
- HHS announced it distributed incentive payments to nursing homes curbing COVID-19 deaths and infections.
- HHS and DoD announced an agreement with Eli Lilly and Company to purchase the first doses of the company’s COVID-19 investigational antibody therapeutic bamlanivimab, also known as LY-CoV555.
- HHS published a press release titled “HHS Delivers 125 Million Masks to Support Safe School Reopening.”
- HHS announced additional guidance under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) authorizing qualified pharmacy technicians and state-authorized pharmacy interns to administer childhood vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines when made available, and COVID-19 tests, all subject to several requirements.
- HHS and DoD announced agreements with CVS and Walgreens to provide and administer COVID-19 vaccines to residents of long-term care facilities (LTCF) nationwide with no out-of-pocket costs.
- HHS announced that it will provide a saliva test at a surge testing site in Waco, TX.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Stephen M. Hahn MD, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, released a statement titled “FDA Offers Guidance to
Enhance Diversity in Clinical Trials, Encourage Inclusivity in Medical Product Development.”
- FDA published a press release titled “FDA Authorizes First Test that Detects Neutralizing Antibodies from Recent or Prior SARS-CoV-2 Infection.”
- FDA published a statement titled “FDA Publishes List of Essential Medicines, Medical Countermeasures, Critical Inputs Required by Executive Order.”
- FDA reissued the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for certain filtering face-piece respirators (FFRs) that are manufactured in China and are not approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Indian Health Service (IHS)

- IHS published a press release titled “IHS Receives 150,000 additional BinaxNOW COVID-19 Tests.”
- RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA, Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service and Director of IHS released a statement on its COVID-19 Pandemic Draft Vaccine Plan.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH published a press release titled “Hydroxychloroquine does not benefit adults hospitalized with COVID-19.”
- NIH published a press release titled “NIH scientists discover key pathway in lysosomes that coronaviruses use to exit cells.”
- NIH published a press release titled “NIH begins large clinical trial to test immune modulators for treatment of COVID-19.”

Whoopi Goldberg Thanks Nurses and Congratulates the Academy’s Fellows During the 2020 Virtual Induction Ceremony