

COVID-19 DIGEST



December 11, 2020

Academy News

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Fellow Highlights

Donna M. Nickitas, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNE, FAAN, [authored an article](#) titled “The Politics of the COVID-19 Pandemic” in *Medscape*.

Kristen Choi, PhD, RN, former Jonas Policy Scholar, [published a perspective](#) titled “A Nursing Researcher’s Experience in a COVID-19 Vaccine Trial” in *JAMA*. Read more about her experience [here](#).

Maria Shirey, PhD, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, ANEF, FACHE, FNAP, FAAN and **Connie White-Williams**, PhD, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, [co-authored an article](#) titled “Caring for Underserved Patients with Heart Failure during the COVID-19 Pandemic” in the *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. Read more about their work at The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing Heart Failure Transitional Care Services for Adults (HRTSA) Clinic [here](#).

News & Updates from National Organizations

American Nurses Association (ANA) released a couple of webinars titled “[Effective Tools for Practicing Self-Compassion and Self Care in the Time of COVID-19](#)” and “[The State of COVID-19 Vaccine Development: What You Need to Know](#).” Additionally, **ANA** [created](#) a COVID-19 Vaccines page on issues of Access, Transparency, Equity, Efficacy, Safety, and Additional Information which includes the ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights document on “[Guiding Principles for Nurses and the COVID-19 Vaccines](#).”

The Atlantic [published an article](#) titled “‘No One Is Listening to Us:’ More people than ever are hospitalized with COVID-19. Health-care workers can’t go on like this.”

The **Biden-Harris Transition** [announced](#) additional COVID-19 Advisory Board Members including a nurse, **Jane Hopkins**, RNMH.

International Council of Nurses (ICN) [released a statement](#) titled “ICN calls for establishment of HERO funds to place health education at the heart of COVID-19 economic recovery plans.” **ICN** [released a statement](#) titled “ICN statement on Health Worker Infections and Deaths.”



#MaskUpAmerica, COVID-19 USA Deaths: Field of Flags

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) [published an issue brief](#) titled “Estimates of the Initial Priority Population for COVID-19 Vaccination by State.” KFF [released a policy brief](#) titled “How Has the Pandemic Affected Health Coverage in the U.S.?”

Kaiser Health News (KHN) [published an article](#) titled “Farmworkers, Firefighters and Flight Attendants Jockey for Vaccine Priority.” KHN [published a commentary](#) titled “It’s Time to Scare People About COVID.”

Mental Health America [released the results](#) of a recent survey on “The Mental Health of Healthcare Workers in COVID-19.”

The New York Times (NYT) [published an article](#) titled “The Elderly vs. Essential Workers: Who Should Get the Coronavirus Vaccine First?”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) [released a webinar](#) titled “Vaccines: The Realities of the Next Steps.” NAM [will host a webinar](#) titled “Webinar on COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence” on December 18 at 11:30 AM ET. NAM [released a consensus study report](#) titled “Rapid Expert Consultation on Critical Issues in Diagnostic Testing for the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) [published a press release](#) titled “National Academies Launch New COVID-19 Strategic Science Initiative.” NASEM [will also host a webinar](#) titled “Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders in the Era of COVID-19: With a Special Focus on the Impact of the Pandemic on Communities of Color: A Workshop (Part 3)” on December 14th at 1pm ET.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** [released an overview](#) of the COVID-19 candidate vaccines. WHO [published a checklist](#) titled “Checklist to support schools re-opening and preparation for COVID-19 resurgences or similar public health crises.”

Federal Government Response



Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- ACL [will host a webinar](#) titled “ACL/CMS Webinar 1/14/21: Reducing Food Insecurity and Nutrition-Related Chronic Diseases During COVID Among Medicaid HCBS Beneficiaries” on January 14 at 3:00 PM ET.
- ACL [published a press release](#) titled “Telehealth During a Pandemic: Maintaining Accessible Services.”
- ACL [announced](#): “Two New COVID-19 Resources for the Disability Community.”
- ACL [published a webinar](#) titled “How Wyoming’s Tech2Connect Addresses Social Isolation Among Older Adults.”



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC [released a statement](#) on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. For more information, [read](#) about the interim recommendations.
- CDC [released the transcript](#) for CDC Telebriefing on the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- CDC [released the transcript](#) for CDC MEDIA TELEBRIEFING: Update on COVID-19.
- CDC [published a press release](#) titled “COVID-19 Travel Health Notice Levels and Testing for International Travelers.”
- CDC [released the transcript](#) for CDC Telebriefing on the COVID-19 Outbreak.
- 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](#) comprehensive steps to increase the capacity of the American health care system to provide care to patients outside a traditional hospital setting amid a rising number of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) hospitalizations across the country.
- CMS [urged](#) nursing home staff, residents and visitors to follow established guidelines for visitation and adherence to the core principles of infection prevention. These guidelines include remaining six feet apart from individuals, wearing a face covering, and limiting the number of visitors in the nursing home at any one time.
- CMS [released](#) the nursing home COVID-19 training data with an urgent call to action.
- 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 of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS [announced](#) that it will distribute \$523 million in second round performance payments to over 9,000 nursing homes. These nursing homes are being rewarded for successfully reducing COVID-19 related infections and deaths between September and October.
- HHS [issued](#) a fourth amendment to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to increase access to critical countermeasures against COVID-19.
- HHS and Department of Defense (DoD) [announced](#) the purchase of 650,000 additional treatments courses of Eli Lilly and Company’s investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic, bamlanivimab, to be delivered in December and January for treatment of non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients.
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Tribal Health Programs and Urban Indian Organizations Choose How They Will Access the COVID-19 Vaccine.”
- HHS [announced](#) plans to allocate initial doses of Regeneron’s investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic, casirivimab and imdevimab, which received emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on November

21, 2020, for treatment of non-hospitalized patients with mild or moderate confirmed cases of COVID-19 at high risk of hospitalization.

- HHS and DoD [awarded](#) an \$11.6 million contract to Puritan Medical Products Company, LLC, to expand domestic production capacity of Cue Sample Wands, the nasal swabs used exclusively with the COVID-19 cartridge-based molecular testing system developed and manufactured by Cue Health, Inc.
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “HHS Provides \$25 Million to Siemens Healthineers to Develop and Produce COVID-19 Antigen Diagnostic Tests.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “HHS Launches Pilot Program of Fast Molecular POC Test for COVID-19.”
- The Office of Minority Health (OMH) [published a blog](#) titled “Honored to serve my Community, Tribe, and Country during the COVID-19 pandemic.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “HHS Seeks Public Input on Leveraging Novel Technologies for Chronic Disease Management for Aging Underserved Populations.”
- HHS Secretary Azar [released a statement](#) on the Moderna Vaccine Announcement.



Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Authorizes First COVID-19 and Flu Combination Test for use with home-collected samples.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Issues New Policy on Dry Heat for Reuse of Certain Respirators.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Authorizes Drug Combination for Treatment of COVID-19.”
- FDA [released a statement](#) titled “FDA’s Ongoing Commitment to Transparency for COVID-19 EUAs.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Authorizes First COVID-19 Test for Self-Testing at Home.”



Indian Health Service (IHS)

- RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA, Assistant Surgeon General, U.S. Public Health Service and Director of IHS [released a statement](#) on the development of new COVID-19 vaccines.
- RADM Michael D. Weahkee [released a statement](#) on the IHS COVID-19 Pandemic Draft Vaccine Plan.



National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH-funded tool helps organizations plan COVID-19 testing.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “Fourth iteration of COVID-19 treatment trial underway.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “Promising Interim Results from Clinical Trial of NIH-Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.”

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It is imperative, as we begin the holiday season's festivities with the first evening of Hanukkah last night, that we remain vigilant in our duty to protect ourselves and our communities by wearing masks, social distancing, and getting the flu vaccine.

EILEEN SULLIVAN-MARX, PHD, RN, FAAN
Academy President



COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

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