January 28: The Academy sent a press release applauding President Biden’s Executive Orders to accelerate the vaccine rollout, increase personal protective equipment (PPE) production, elevate face mask requirements, and rejoin the World Health Organization (WHO), all with a renewed focus on health equity that aligns with the Academy’s vision: healthy lives for all people.

The Academy will be focusing its COVID-19 work in 2021 on the following priorities:

- Protect our most vulnerable populations.
- Support nurses and healthcare providers.
- Accelerate access to and education of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Increase access, speed, and accuracy of testing.

Note: The CDC released a series of COVID-19 vaccine training modules for healthcare providers.
Nancy T. Browne, MS, PPCNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, Julia A. Sneathen, PhD, RN, FAAN, Cindy Smith Greenberg, DNsC, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN, Marilyn Frenn, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FTOS, FAAN, Jill F. Kilanowski, PhD, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN, Bonnie Gance-Cleveland, PhD, PNP, RNC, FAAN, Pamela J. Burke, PhD, RN, FNP, PPCNP-BC, FSHHM, FAAN, and Linda Lewandowski, PhD, RN, FAAN, co-authored an article titled “When pandemics collide: The impact of COVID-19 on childhood obesity” in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing.

Ernest Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN, was featured in two videos titled “For Physicians & Nurses: Answers to COVID-19 Vaccination Questions for HCPs” and “For Healthcare Providers: Answers to COVID-19 Vaccination Logistics Questions” by the Ad Council.

Karen Robinson, PhD, RN, FAAN, authored an article titled “Comparing the Spanish flu and COVID-19 pandemics: Lessons to carry forward” featuring Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN, in Wiley Online Library.

Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN, was quoted in an article titled “Nursing students inspired to help others amid pandemic” on Fox 5 New York.

Connie Ulrich, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN, authored an op-ed titled “Nurses are reaching their COVID-19 breaking point. It didn’t have to be this way” in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

 Featured Fellow

Academy President-Elect Kenneth R. White, PhD, AGACNP-BC, FACHE, FAAN, has been working as a vaccine volunteer at UVA Health to administer COVID-19 vaccinations. If you have also been active with the vaccination rollout, the Academy wants to hear from you! Share your experiences to be featured in upcoming editions of COVID Digest.

Image Source: UVA School of Nursing

 News & Updates from National Organizations

American Nurses Association (ANA) released an issue of American Nurse titled "COVID-19 Pandemic: Nurses Respond."

The Guardian released an article titled “Lost on the frontline: US healthcare workers who died fighting COVID-19.” Notably, there have been 3,303 healthcare worker deaths, with nurses accounting for the greatest proportion at 31%.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) published an article titled “Protecting nurses and other healthcare workers tops ICN’s agenda.” ICN also published an article titled “Resuscitation of COVID-19 Patients.”

Source: The Guardian
Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) released an article titled “KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: January 2021.” KFF published a policy brief titled “Key Characteristics of Health Care Workers and Implications for COVID-19 Vaccination.”

Kaiser Health News (KHN) released an article titled “Black Americans Are Getting Vaccinated at Lower Rates Than White Americans.” KHN released an article titled “Huge Gaps in Vaccine Data Make It Next to Impossible to Know Who Got the Shots.”

Figure 7
Limited Information About When, Where To Get The Vaccine Is Particularly An Issue For Black, Hispanic, And Lower Income Adults

AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED: Percent who say they do not have enough information about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When people like them will be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine</th>
<th>Where they will get a COVID-19 vaccine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic adults</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black adults</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH income: Less than $40,000</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH income: $40,000-$90,000</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White adults</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH income: $90,000+</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: KFF

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) published an article titled “National Organizations Call for Action to Implement Crisis Standards of Care During COVID-19 Surge.” NAM will host a webinar titled “A New Year of COVID — The State of the Pandemic & U.S. Strategy in 2021.” For more information, click here.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) hosted a webinar titled “Crisis Standards of Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic – Real-time Legal Issues and Solutions.”

National Governors Association (NGA) released a policy memo titled “Phased Allocation Of COVID-19 Vaccines: State And Territorial Approaches.”

The National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation will host a webinar titled “COVID-19 and the Legacy of Racism: Vaccine Hesitancy and Treatment Bias” on February 3rd. NIHCM also hosted a series of webinars on “Stopping the Other Pandemic: Systemic Racism and Health.”

The New York Times (NYT) released an interactive map to track the COVID-19 vaccine progress in each state in the United States.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) released a policy brief titled “From Safety Net to Solid Ground: One in Three Adults Used Telehealth During the First Six Months of the Pandemic, but Unmet Needs for Care Persisted.”

• CDC released guidance on “Ensuring the Safety of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States.”
• CDC announced an order regarding all air passengers arriving to the US from a foreign country to get tested no more than 3 days before their flight departs and to present the negative result or documentation.
• CDC published a new tool to track the different COVID-19 variants and the amount of known cases in the country.
• CDC published a toolkit for essential workers on the COVID-19 vaccine.
• CDC published a toolkit designed for public health officials, K-12 administrators, school district officials, and occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals to assess hazards and implement mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in schools.
• CDC published guidance for expanded screening testing to reduce silent spread of SARS-CoV-2.
• CDC released guidelines on “What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19.”
• CDC published guidance titled “Operational Considerations for Immunization Services During COVID-19 in Non-US Settings Focusing on Low-Middle Income Countries.”
• 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 released a toolkit titled “Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes.”
• CMS launched an innovative web-based platform to help standardize “Section 1135” waiver requests and other Public Health Emergency (PHE)-related inquiries the agency receives.
• 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 and the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) announced that it will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose penalties for violations of the HIPAA Rules on covered health care providers or their business associates in connection with the good faith use of online or web-based scheduling applications (collectively, “WBSAs”) for the scheduling of individual appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations during the COVID-19 nationwide public health emergency.
HHS published a press release titled “Dr. Anthony S. Fauci Remarks at the World Health Organization Executive Board Meeting.”

HHS published a press release titled “HHS Launches Web-Based Locator for COVID-19 Outpatient Treatment Sites for Monoclonal Antibodies.”

HHS announced the extension of the Community Based Testing Site program for COVID-19 testing, through partnership with national pharmacy and retail chains CVS, Rite-Aid, Walgreens, Quest (through services at Walmart) and service provider eTrueNorth (through services at Health Mart and Topco locations).

HHS announced two upcoming actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide more than $22 billion in funding to states, localities, and territories in support of the nation’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as directed by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

• FDA published a press release titled “Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Takes Action to Place All Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers from Mexico on Import Alert to Help Prevent Entry of Violative and Potentially Dangerous Products into U.S., Protect U.S. Consumers.”

• FDA published a press release titled “FDA Issues Alert Regarding SARS-CoV-2 Viral Mutation to Health Care Providers and Clinical Laboratory Staff.”

• FDA released a statement titled “FDA Statement on Following the Authorized Dosing Schedules for COVID-19 Vaccines.”

Indian Health Service (IHS)

• RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA, Director of IHS, released a statement titled “Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader Message on COVID-19.”

• IHS published a presentation on Tribal Consultation & Urban Confer.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

• NIH published a press release titled “NIH launches database to track neurological symptoms associated with COVID-19.”

• NIH published a press release titled “Full-dose blood thinners decreased need for life support and improved outcome in hospitalized COVID-19 patients.”
Lori Marie Key, a 29-year-old nurse from Livonia, Michigan, Sings “Amazing Grace” at National COVID Remembrance

Source: PBS News Hour

COVID-19 Resources

American Academy of Nursing
Washington, DC

info@aannet.org | www.aannet.org | 202-777-1170

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