

COVID-19 DIGEST



February 12, 2021

Academy News

February 5: The Academy sent a letter to **Representative Lauren Underwood** (D-IL-14) supporting her bill, the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021 (Momnibus)**. The Momnibus is a set of 12 individual bills that aim to improve maternal health outcomes in the United States, particularly among Black mothers. Of note, the **Maternal Health Pandemic Response Act** will invest in federal programs to address the unique risks for and effects of COVID-19 during and after pregnancy. [Read more.](#)

DISTINGUISHED NURSE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!
APPLICATIONS DUE **FEBRUARY 22, 2021**
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Featured Fellow



Dawn Aycock, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FAHA, FAAN, Associate Professor, Director of PhD in Nursing Program, Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions, Georgia State University, is using her [Betty Irene Moore Fellowship for Nurse Leaders and Innovators](#) to tailor her Stroke Counseling for Risk Reduction (SCORRE) intervention for young African-American men, an increasingly at-risk, understudied population. Since the pandemic, Dr. Aycock has studied the disproportionate impact the disease has had on her population.

“COVID-19 and systemic racism have really changed the way that I look at this study because we’re seeing an increase in stroke related to COVID,” [she says](#). “More young adults are presenting to hospitals with strokes.”

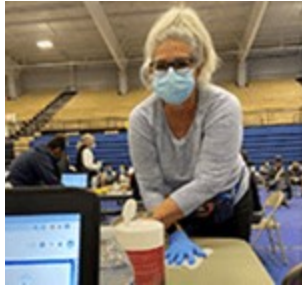
Dr. Aycock intends to further study the exacerbation of stress and mental health issues as a result of the pandemic and ways to increase awareness of personal stroke risk and healthy lifestyle behaviors in a study beginning early this year. [Read more.](#)

Fellow Highlights

Mary Ann Fuchs, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, **Diana Mason**, PhD, RN, FAAN, and Honorary Fellow **Rev. Dr. Lorina Marshall-Blake**, MGA, FAAN [will participate in a webinar](#) titled “Nurses on the Frontline: Strengthening America’s Health Care Workforce” on Monday, February 22nd at 2pm ET hosted by The National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation.

Fellow Vaccine Efforts

Christine Kovner, PhD, RN, FAAN, Mathy Mezey Professor of Geriatric Nursing, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing, has been volunteering in New York. "I hadn't provided direct patient care for many many years and felt badly that I didn't have the skills to work on inpatient units during the height of the Covid pandemic in New York City. In my early days as a nurse I had occasionally worked in an "immunization clinic" in my job at the NYC health department, so I was confident that I could help provide Covid immunizations. And now I am back to direct care, immunizing people at NYU Langone Health's covid vaccine center on a per diem basis. I love it!"



Rhonda Collins, DNP, RN, FAAN, Chief Nursing Officer, Vocera Communications, has been volunteering to deliver vaccines in the Austin, Texas area. (Pictured Left)

Vickie Niederhauser, DrPH, RN, PPCNP-BC, FAAN, Dean, University of Tennessee Knoxville, College of Nursing, with four BSN students are participating in vaccine clinics in the Knoxville area. "On this day, we

vaccinated over 400 Covenant Health employees in 3.5 hours!" (Pictured Right)



Anne Turner-Henson PhD, RN, FAAN (Retired Professor, UAB School of Nursing) is working with UAB nursing colleagues, retired nurses and others in providing COVID vaccinations for the UAB community. She received her second vaccination from her former UAB student, Stephanie Austell Lima BSN, RN. (Pictured Below)



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.

News & Updates from National Organizations

American Association for the Colleges of Nursing (AACN) [will host a webinar](#) titled "Boosting Resiliency and Well-being During COVID-19: Evidence-based Interventions that Work" on Thursday, February 18 at 2pm ET.

American Hospital Association (AHA), American Medical Association (AMA), and American Nurses Association (ANA) [released a statement](#) titled "AHA, AMA & ANA Release Public Service Announcement Urging the American Public to Take Covid-19 Vaccine When It Is Their Turn."

National Governors Association (NGA) [released guidance](#) titled "Supporting A Trained Direct Care Workforce In Facility Settings During And After The Covid-19 Pandemic." **NGA** [released a policy memo](#) titled "State COVID-19 Vaccine Resources."

National League for Nursing (NLN) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) [published a press release](#) titled "Vaccinating America Against COVID-19."

New York Times (NYT) [published an article](#) titled “Facebook says it plans to remove posts with false vaccine claims.” **NYT** [published an op-ed](#) titled “60 Black Health Experts Urge Black Americans to Get Vaccinated.”

The Guardian [published an article](#) titled “Black Americans receiving Covid vaccines at lower rates than whites.”

The Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center and Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities [posted a new dashboard](#) to understand how each state is prioritizing the disability community in COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) [released a policy memo](#) titled “At This Early Stage of the COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out, Most Older Adults Have Not Yet Been Vaccinated As Supply Remains Limited.” **KFF** [released an issue brief](#) titled “The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use.”

Kaiser Health News (KHN) [published an article](#) titled “Vaccine Hesitancy vs. Vaccine Refusal: Nursing Home Staffers Say There’s a Difference.” **KHN** [published an article](#) titled “Community Health Workers, Often Overlooked, Bring Trust to the Pandemic Fight.”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) [will host a webinar](#) titled “A New Year of COVID — The State of the Pandemic & U.S. Strategy in 2021” on Wednesday, February 24th at 5pm ET.

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) [released a guide](#) titled “Strategies for Building Confidence in the COVID-19 Vaccines.” **NASEM** [will host a webinar](#) titled “Caring for People with Serious Illness in the Home: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Webinar” on Tuesday, February 16th at 12pm ET.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) [released a policy brief](#) titled “Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Primary Care Practices.”

The University of South Carolina College of Nursing released a series of three webinars titled “Calming the Chaos Around Us: A Team Approach to Support Children and Families.” Watch [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#).

The World Health Organization (WHO) [released a statement](#) titled “COVAX Statement on New Variants of SARS-CoV-2.” **WHO** [published a press release](#) titled “COVAX publishes first interim distribution forecast.”

Federal Government Response

Administration for Community Living (ACL)



- ACL [released guidance](#) titled “COVID Vaccination FAQs for the Aging Network.”



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [released an article](#) titled “Maximizing Fit for Cloth and Medical Procedure Masks to Improve Performance and Reduce SARS-CoV-2 Transmission and Exposure, 2021.”
- CDC's MMWR [released an article](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccination Intent, Perceptions, and Reasons for Not Vaccinating Among Groups Prioritized for Early Vaccination - United States, September and December 2020.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) for vaccine considerations for people with disabilities.

- CDC's MMWR [released an article](#) titled "Sexual Orientation Disparities in Risk Factors for Adverse COVID-19 - Related Outcomes, by Race/Ethnicity - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, United States, 2017 - 2019."
- CDC [updated guidance](#) for wearing masks including anytime one is traveling on a plane, bus, train, or other form of public transportation both around and outside the United States.
- CDC [updated guidance](#) for operating schools during COVID-19.
- CDC [published a new tool](#) to identify the Pandemic Vulnerability Index (PVI) by County in the United States.
- CDC [published a new tool](#) to track the distribution of the vaccine throughout the United States.
- CDC [updated the information](#) on testing for past infection for the virus that causes COVID-19.
- CDC [updated the information](#) on the new variants of the virus that causes COVID-19.
- CDC [published a new tool](#) to track the different COVID-19 variants and the amount of known cases in the country.
- 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 [published a press release](#) titled "2021 Special Enrollment Period in response to the COVID-19 Emergency."
- 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 [published a press release](#) titled "HHS Announces Marketplace Special Enrollment Period for COVID-19 Public Health Emergency."
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled "HHS Amends PREP Act Declaration to Increase Workforce Authorized to Administer COVID-19 Vaccines."
- HHS's **Office of Minority Health** is [leading a campaign](#) to create awareness around Hypertension and COVID-19 during Black History Month 2021.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA [revised](#) the Letter of Authorization for COVID-19 convalescent plasma to limit the authorization to the use of high titer COVID-19 convalescent plasma for the treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 early in the



disease course and to those hospitalized patients who have impaired humoral immunity and cannot produce an adequate antibody response.

- FDA [published a press release](#) titled "FDA Announces Advisory Committee Meeting to Discuss Janssen Biotech Inc.'s COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate."
- FDA [released a statement](#) titled "FDA Continues Important Work to Support Medical Product Development to Address New Virus Variants."



Indian Health Service (IHS)

- IHS [published a press release](#) titled "IHS receives an additional \$1 billion for the continued COVID-19 response."



National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, [published a blog](#) titled "Mapping Which Coronavirus Variants Will Resist Antibody Treatments."
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled "NIH calls for greater inclusion of pregnant and lactating people in COVID-19 vaccine research."
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled "Clinical trial in hospitalized COVID-19 patients evaluates long-acting antibody therapy."
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled "Janssen Investigational COVID-19 Vaccine: Interim Analysis of Phase 3 Clinical Data Released."
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled "Severe COVID-19 in pregnancy associated with preterm birth, other complications."



The White House

- The White House [released](#) "National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness."

COVID-19 tore apart 'inseparable' couple, married for 63 years, so nurses worked to reunite them for a date



[Source: USA Today](#)

COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

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