

# COVID-19 DIGEST



March 12, 2021

## Message from Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx

Yesterday, we faced the one-year mark since schools, businesses, and much of life shut down. As President Biden shared last night, “while it was different for everyone, we all lost something, a collective suffering, a collective sacrifice. A year filled with the loss of life, the loss of living for all of us.” So many friends, family, colleagues, and community members have been lost. There has been tremendous heartache and pain that has persisted in ways we never thought imaginable. And while it has been one year since the United States locked down, we know that around the globe, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic was felt even earlier.



As Academy President, I wanted to take a moment in this space— our newsletter dedicated to sharing information and hope about COVID-19— to honor the incredible work of nurses, the work of our Fellows, and the resilient spirit of our profession. I would like to honor the ultimate sacrifice that too many in our profession have given during this pandemic, their own life. To each of you reading this note, thank you. Thank you for your compassion, innovation, science, and leadership to battle a disease that has taken the world by storm and severely heightened health inequities globally. Thank you for your moments of grace, guidance, and courage. Together, united, we are stronger than ever.

While I often comment that I have been the Academy’s virtual President, I have never felt more connected to our Fellows, the organization, and our incredible profession. I am hopeful that the goals set by President Biden will allow us to see greater vaccination rates by spring and the opportunity for safe in-person gatherings this summer. In the meantime, may the sun be shining where you are, may the anticipation for a better tomorrow fill your hearts, and from all of us at the Academy, the Board of Directors, volunteer leaders, and professional staff, we thank you for your investment in our collective vision— healthy lives for all people.

Sincerely,

Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President

## Featured Fellow

**Rear Admiral Denise Hinton**, MS, RN, FAAN, Chief Scientist, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is the chair of the FDA’s COVID-19 Agency Executive Group, which brings together Center Directors and other senior leadership across the Agency and the Acting Commissioner, to collaboratively provide leadership and coordination of the FDA’s public health and scientific efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This work includes expediting access to COVID-19 medical countermeasures for the detection, protection against, prevention, and treatment of COVID-19, supporting the stability and quality of medical product and food supply chains, and ensuring the Agency’s decisions are guided firmly by science, using open and transparent processes to promote continued public confidence.



RADM Hinton is the signatory for the Agency on Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) issued in response to the Secretary's declaration of a public health emergency. Since the start of this emergency, the FDA has used the EUA mechanism to provide a response to the nation's unprecedented demand for diagnostic tests, PPE, and other medical products, including authorizing three vaccines for emergency use. In recent weeks, the FDA has issued an EUA for the first over-the-counter COVID-19 diagnostic test for self-testing at home that provides rapid results, and EUAs authorizing the use of monoclonal antibodies for COVID-19 treatment, which is designed to block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells. Overall, during the pandemic, FDA has authorized more than 350 EUAs enabling access to more than 700 products.

RADM Hinton is leveraging her position to communicate to consumers and health care providers about FDA's actions to promote and protect public health, including to advance information on vaccine safety upon approval, which occurs through a rigorous review process, and encourage individuals to get vaccinated once they are able.

Stay informed on the latest FDA vaccine updates [here](#).

## Fellow Vaccine Efforts



**Kelly A. Wolgast**, DNP, RN, FACHE, FAAN, Director, Penn State University COVID-19 Operations Control Center, has been volunteering as a vaccinators through the Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM) at a local clinic in State College, PA. CVIM is a free medical and dental clinic in Centre County, PA and provides access to primary and preventive medical and dental care for individuals living or working in Centre County that do not have a free clinic or programs to meet their needs.

*(Pictured Left: Dr. Wolgast participating as a volunteer on February 27, 2021)*

**Terri E. Weaver**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean and Professor, and **Susan Corbridge**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Executive Associate Dean at University of Illinois Chicago have led the involvement of undergraduate and graduate nursing students in distributing vaccines at two clinics on the UIC campus. Their work includes a mass vaccination site at UIC's Credit Union 1 Arena, where more than 1,000 people are receiving the vaccine each day.



*(Pictured Left: Dr. Weaver discusses activities in the clinic with BSN student Jasmine Medina. Pictured Right: Dr. Corbridge takes a breather with two BSN students at UIC's mass vaccination site.)*



If you have 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.

## Fellow Highlights

**Kevin Sowers**, MSN, RN, FAAN, is helping to lead the [Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital](#), a public-private partnership between the **Maryland Department of Health**, **University of Maryland Medical System**, and **Johns Hopkins Medicine** to vaccinate the most vulnerable populations.

**Mary Wakefield**, PhD, RN, FAAN, an Academy Living Legend, is featured in an episode of [The Dose podcast](#), "'All Hands On Deck': The COVID-19 Pandemic Through Nurses' Eyes," to discuss the nation's public health system from a nursing perspective.

## News & Updates from National Organizations

**American Nurses Association (ANA)** [published a list of resources](#) titled “COVID-19 and your Mental Health.”

**Greater Than COVID** [launched their campaign](#) titled “Join the Conversation #BetweenUsABoutUs.”



(Image Source: [Greater than COVID](#))

**Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)** [published a report](#) titled “The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBT People.” KFF [published a report](#) titled “Are Health Centers Facilitating Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations?”

**Kaiser Health News (KHN)** [published an article](#) titled “CDC’s ‘Huge Mistake’: Did Misguided Mask Advice Drive Up Covid Death Toll for Health Workers?” KHN [published an article](#) titled “To Extract More Doses per Vial, Vaccinators Put Squeeze on FDA to Relax Vaccine Handling Advice.”

**National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** [launched an initiative](#) titled “Advancing Pandemic and Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Preparedness and Response.” NAM and the **American Public Health Association (APHA)** [will host a webinar](#) titled “COVID-19 Conversations: Variants and Vaccines” on March 17th at 5pm ET.

**National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)** [launched a tool](#) for volunteer vaccine provider enrollment across the United States of America.

**National Governors Association (NGA)** [released guidance](#) titled “Increasing Utilization Of COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibodies: Considerations And Promising Practices For States.”

**The New York Times (NYT)** [released an article](#) titled “Can’t Get a Covid Vaccine? In This County, Everybody is Eligible.” NYT [published an interactive site](#) titled “Those We’ve Lost.”

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** [announced](#) this year as the “Year of the Health and Care Workers 2021.” WHO [published a press release](#) titled “COVAX publishes first round of allocations.”



(Image Source: [WHO](#))





## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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- CDC [published](#) "Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19."
- CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [released a report](#) titled "Estimated SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence Among Persons Aged <18 Years — Mississippi, May–September 2020."
- CDC's MMWR [released a report](#) titled "Body Mass Index and Risk for COVID-19–Related Hospitalization, Intensive Care Unit Admission, Invasive Mechanical Ventilation, and Death — United States, March–December 2020."
- CDC [released](#) "Media Statement from CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, In Observance of One-Year Pandemic Milestone."
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled "Testing Strategies for SARS-CoV-2."
- CDC [updated](#) communication resources for COVID-19 vaccines.
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled "Information about COVID-19 Vaccines for People who Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding."
- CDC [released](#) "Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)."
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled "Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination."
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled "Vaccine Considerations for People with Disabilities."
- CDC [published a press release](#) titled "CDC Issues First Set of Guidelines on How Fully Vaccinated People Can Visit Safely with Others."
- CDC [released guidance](#) titled "When You've Been Fully Vaccinated."
- CDC's MMWR [released a report](#) titled "Suspected Recurrent SARS-CoV-2 Infections Among Residents of a Skilled Nursing Facility During a Second COVID-19 Outbreak — Kentucky, July–November 2020."
- CDC continues to [update data](#) on the number of COVID-19 cases caused by variants, data on the number of [COVID-19 vaccines distributed](#) in the United States, and the number of [COVID-19 cases and deaths](#) in the United States.



## Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

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- CMS [issued updated guidance](#) for nursing homes to safely expand visitation options during the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (PHE).
- CMS [issued new guidance](#) for removing barriers to COVID-19 diagnostic testing and vaccinations and strengthening requirements that plans and issuers cover diagnostic testing without cost sharing.



## Department for Health and Human Services (HHS)

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- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Biden Administration to Invest \$250 Million in Effort to Encourage COVID-19 Safety and Vaccination Among Underserved Populations.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Biden Administration Announces Historic Manufacturing Collaboration Between Merck and Johnson & Johnson to Expand Production of COVID-19 Vaccines.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “OCR Resolves Three Discrimination Complaints After Medstar Health System Ensures Patients With Disabilities Can Have Support Persons in Health Care Settings During Covid-19 Pandemic.”



## Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

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- FDA [hosted a podcast](#) titled “Health Fraud & COVID-19: What You Need to Know.”
- FDA [published a blog](#) titled “National Consumer Protection Week: FDA Is Vigilant in Protecting Consumers Against COVID-19 Vaccine Scams.”
- FDA [released a statement](#) titled “FDA Issues Authorization for Quidel QuickVue At-Home COVID-19 Test.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization for Third COVID-19 Vaccine.”
- FDA [released a statement](#) titled “FDA Statement on Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Meeting.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Allows More Flexible Storage, Transportation Conditions for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.”



## National Institutes of Health (NIH)

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- Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, [published a blog](#) titled “Israeli Study Offers First Real-World Glimpse of COVID-19 Vaccines in Action.”
- NIH [published a statement](#) titled “Statement on NIH starting enrollment for third trial of blood clotting treatments for COVID-19.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH-Sponsored ACTIV-3 Clinical Trial Closes Enrollment into Two Sub-Studies.”
- Dr. Francis Collins [published a blog](#) titled “Antibody Response Affects COVID-19 Outcomes in Kids and Adults.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH halts trial of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in emergency department patients with mild symptoms.”

- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH effort seeks to understand MIS-C, range of SARS-CoV-2 effects on children.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH to evaluate COVID-19 at-home testing system.”
- NIH [published a statement](#) titled “Statement from NIH and BARDA on the FDA Emergency Use Authorization of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “NIH study finds that people with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies may have a low risk of future infection.”



### United States Senate

- The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee [held a hearing](#) titled “Examining Our COVID-19 Response: An Update from the Frontlines.”



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Watch former Presidents [@BarackObama](#), [@TheBushCenter](#), [@BillClinton](#) & [@CarterCenter](#) talk about the reasons they got vaccinated against COVID-19 in this historic PSA created in partnership with the [@theCOVIDCollab](#)—get the facts about the COVID-19 vaccines at [GetVaccineAnswers.org](#)



Source: AdCouncil

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