

COVID-19 DIGEST



March 26, 2021

Academy Actions

The **American Rescue Plan Act** passed in the United States House of Representatives on Saturday, February 27, 2021 and in the United States Senate on Saturday, March 6, 2021. The House of Representatives voted to pass the final version on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. [Read an outline](#) the Academy has prepared of the various provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act.

Featured Fellow



Cynthia A. Persily, PhD, RN, FAAN, (pictured left) Senior Director of Health Sciences, West Virginia (WV) Higher Education Policy Commission (WVHEPC), has been coordinating the supply and administration of vaccine efforts for 43 different public and private 2- and 4-year colleges. Starting with 1,000 doses per week, spread across campuses based on need, the distribution has increased to 1,600-2,000 vaccines per week as vaccine efforts progressed. She has worked with schools, who polled their campus community to identify those who wanted the vaccine, to deploy vaccines to the right hub, coordinate with college health centers and local health departments for administration, and follow up with any issues. To date, higher

education institutions have administered over 10,000 doses.

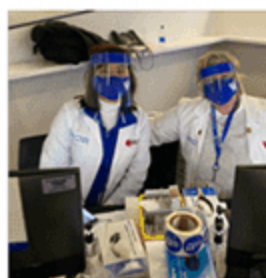
Her team has also developed the WV Vaccine Administration, Collaboration and Support Team funded by grants from the WV Higher Education Policy Commission and the Department of Health and Human Resources to train and deploy health sciences students to clinics across the state, including the most rural areas to assist with vaccine efforts. To date, 1,000 health sciences students have signed up to participate. The successful effort has been run as an intricate military mission — over 95% of vaccines received in the state has been put into arms and over 30% of the WV state population over the age of 16 have received at least one dose of vaccine.



Fellow Vaccine Efforts

The **University of Kentucky College of Nursing** has been heavily engaged to provide leadership and coordination of the UK HealthCare Kroger Field Vaccine Clinic campaign to promote health and wellness in the Commonwealth of Kentucky (KY). Since Tuesday, January 19th over 400 faculty, students, and staff have

volunteered over 3500 hours of service. Celebrating a milestone day for the College of Nursing's MEGA Saturday Clinic on Feb 27th, 25,000 Kentuckians have been vaccinated by the College of Nursing since the Kroger Field Vaccine campaign started.



(Images above: **Janie Heath** PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN with faculty and staff end of shift THUMBS UP for the successful University of Kentucky Kroger Field MEGA Vaccine Clinic Day. Second row: Janie Heath with nursing student giving the vaccination; **Living Legend Carolyn Williams**, PhD, RN, FAAN – Emeritus Dean and Professor University of Kentucky (left) receiving vaccination; **Misook Chung**, PhD, RN, FAAN and **Debra Moser**, PhD, RN, FAAN; **Lovoria Williams**, PhD, RN, FAAN. Third row: **Sheila Melander**, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN, Associate Dean for DNP and MSN Faculty and Practice Affairs, at her station with a faculty member; **Karen Butler**, DNP, RN, FAAN (left) with faculty colleague; **Kristin Ashford**, PhD, APRN-BC, FAAN (2nd from left) with faculty and students; Janie Heath with faculty and staff for the KROGER FIELD Mega Vaccine Clinic Day.)

Nancy Fahrenwald, PhD, RN, PHNA-BC, FAAN, Dean, and **Sharon Dormire**, PHD, RN, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Nursing Education, Texas A&M University College of Nursing, have been leading students and helping them gain vital experience while administering vaccines at the Brazos County hub. "I commend our college community for the commitment to pandemic mitigation and safety while successfully learning and educating," said Dr. Fahrenwald. [Read more.](#)

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.

Sheila Burke, MSN, RN, FAAN, [will moderate a webinar](#) titled “Tackling America’s Mental Health and Addiction Crisis Through Primary Care Integration” on Wednesday, March 31st at 11:30am ET hosted by the **Bipartisan Policy Center**.

Tener Goodwin Veenema, PhD, MS, MPH, RN, FAAN, was [interviewed](#) for the **Johnson and Johnson See You Now** podcast in an episode titled “Disaster Ready.” In the interview, Dr. Veenema discusses public health emergencies and how to strengthen health systems, build community resilience, and protect national security in preparation of the next large scale outbreak.

Susan Hassmiller, PhD, RN, FAAN, **Susan Reinhard**, PhD, RN, FAAN, **Susan Orsega**, FNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, **Lisa Martin**, PhD, RN, FAAN, **Ernest Grant**, PhD, RN, FAAN, **Cheryl Taylor**, PhD, RN, FAAN, **Angelica Millan**, DNP, RN, FAAN, **Sheldon Fields**, PhD, RN, FAAN, **Mary Joy Garcia-Dia**, DNP, RN, FAAN, **Carmen Alvarez**, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, and **Barbara Nichols**, MS, RN, FAAN will be featured at the **Campaign For Action’s** [virtual event](#) titled “Nursing Supporting Individuals, Families and Communities” on Tuesday, March 30th at 11am ET.



News & Updates from National Organizations

American Medical Association (AMA) [hosted a webinar](#) titled “Therapeutics for use in COVID-19.”

American Nurses Association (ANA) [launched a campaign](#) titled “COVID Vaccine Facts for Nurses.”



Greater Than COVID [published a digital toolkit](#) to share their resources on social media and organization’s websites.

International Council of Nurses (ICN) [published a press release](#) titled “ICN releases e-report on its work during COVID-19.”

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network [published an article](#) titled “Inequities in Technology Contribute to Disparities in COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution.” **JAMA** [published an article](#) titled “Vaccine Hesitancy Is a Scapegoat for Structural Racism.”

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) [held a webinar](#) titled “Understanding the Health Coverage and Affordability Provisions in the American Rescue Plan Act.” **KFF** [released a policy brief](#) titled “Global COVID-19 Vaccine Access: A Snapshot of Inequality.”

Kaiser Health News (KHN) [published an article](#) titled “Stop Blaming Tuskegee, Critics Say. It’s Not an ‘Excuse’ for Current Medical Racism.” **KHN** [published an article](#) titled “Nosing In on Kids Who Had Covid and Lost Their Sense of Smell.”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) [held a webinar](#) titled “COVID-19 Conversations: Variants and Vaccines.”

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NAEM) [published a report](#) titled “Emergency Evacuation and Sheltering During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

National Governors Association (NGA) [released an issue brief](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccines And Emerging Viral Variants.”

The **New York Times** [published an article](#) titled “Maggots, Rape and Yet Five Stars: How U.S. Ratings of Nursing Homes Mislead the Public.”

World Health Organization (WHO) [released a statement](#) titled “Statement of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS) COVID-19 subcommittee on safety signals related to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.” **WHO** [released a statement](#) titled “WHO statement on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine safety signals.” **WHO** [published a press release](#) titled “New research highlights risks of separating newborns from mothers during COVID-19 pandemic.”

Federal Government Response



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [released a report](#) titled “Counties with High COVID-19 Incidence and Relatively Large Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations — United States, April 1–December 22, 2020.”
- CDC [published a statement](#) titled “Media Statement from CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH, On COVID-19 Vaccination at Dialysis Centers.”
- CDC [published a press release](#) titled “CDC Plans to Provide \$332 Million to Support Community Health Workers for COVID-19 Prevention and Control.”
- CDC [updated guidance](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccines that Require 2 Shots.”
- CDC [released guidance](#) titled “Information about COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Allergies.”
- CDC [published a series of webinars](#) on COVID-19 vaccines ranging from routine clinical and vaccine safety information to guidance for on-site clinic vaccination activities and having conversations with vaccine recipients.
- CDC [launched a study](#) to evaluate the COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness in healthcare workers.
- CDC [published interim guidance](#) titled “Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials.”
- MMWR [released a report](#) titled “Minimal SARS-CoV-2 Transmission After Implementation of a Comprehensive Mitigation Strategy at a School — New Jersey, August 20–November 27, 2020.”
- MMWR [released a report](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccine Second-Dose Completion and Interval Between First

and Second Doses Among Vaccinated Persons — United States, December 14, 2020–February 14, 2021.”

- MMWR [released a report](#) titled “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Incidence by Age, Sex, and Period Among Persons Aged <25 Years — 16 U.S. Jurisdictions, January 1–December 31, 2020.”
- CDC continues to [update](#) data on the number of COVID-19 cases caused by variants.
- CDC continues to [update](#) data on the number of COVID-19 vaccinations distributed in the United States.
- 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 an updated data snapshot](#) detailing the impact of COVID-19 on Medicare beneficiaries, particularly among underserved beneficiaries including racial and ethnic minorities, adults 85 years old and older, and people with certain pre-existing conditions.
- CMS [published a press release](#) titled “Biden-Harris Administration Increases Medicare Payment for Life-Saving COVID-19 Vaccine.”
- CMS [released a fact sheet](#) titled “American Rescue Plan and the Marketplace.”



Department for Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Biden Administration to Invest \$150 Million to Expand Access to COVID-19 Treatments in Underserved Communities.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Biden Administration to Invest More Than \$12 Billion to Expand COVID-19 Testing.”
- HHS [released a fact sheet](#) titled “The American Rescue Plan: Reduces Health Care Costs, Expands Access to Insurance Coverage and Addresses Health Care Disparities.”
- HHS [published a press release](#) titled “Biden Administration Takes Action Through HHS to Increase Number of Vaccinators.”



Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA [published a statement](#) titled “Learn More About COVID-19 Vaccines From the FDA.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Authorizes First Machine Learning-Based Screening Device to Identify Certain Biomarkers That May Indicate COVID-19 Infection.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA authorizes revisions to fact sheets to address

SARS-CoV-2 variants for monoclonal antibody products under emergency use authorization.”

- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA’s Ongoing Use of Inspectional Tools for Ensuring Access to Safe, Quality Food and Medical Products During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Permits Marketing of First SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic Test Using Traditional Premarket Review Process.”
- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA takes steps to streamline path for COVID-19 screening tools, provides information to help groups establishing testing programs.”



National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, [published a blog](#) titled “Predicting ‘Long COVID Syndrome’ with Help of a Smartphone App.”
- Dr. Francis Collins [published a blog](#) titled “First Anniversary of NIH’s COVID-19 Testing Car Line.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “Scientists find evidence that novel coronavirus infects the mouth’s cells.”
- NIH [published a press release](#) titled “Investigational AstraZeneca vaccine prevents COVID-19.”
- Dr. Francis Collins [published a blog](#) titled “Finding New Ways to Fight Coronavirus ... From Studying Bats.”
- Dr. Francis Collins [published a blog](#) titled “Building Vaccine Confidence at the Washington National Cathedral.”



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

- NIAID [published a press release](#) titled “NIAID Statement on AstraZeneca Vaccine.”
- NIAID [published a press release](#) titled “Statement—Investigational AstraZeneca Vaccine Prevents COVID-19.”



United States House of Representatives

- The House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations [held a hearing](#) titled “Leading the Way Forward: Biden Administration Actions to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations.”

United States Senate

- The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee [held a hearing](#) titled



The White House

- The White House [released a fact sheet](#) titled "Biden Administration Announces Historic \$10 Billion Investment to Expand Access to COVID-19 Vaccines and Build Vaccine Confidence in Hardest-Hit and Highest-Risk Communities."

Yo-Yo Ma Played a Surprise Concert for a Clinic During his Post-Vaccination Waiting Period



[Source:](#) Washington Post

COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

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