

# COVID-19

## Weekly Digest



April 17, 2020

### Academy Actions

#### Academy Statement: World Health Organization Funding is Vital to Combat the Coronavirus and Ensure Health Equity

April 17, 2020 - As the coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to have a devastating impact on the health and safety of individuals and communities, international coordination is essential. In every corner of the world, labs, research centers, universities, and private industry are investigating how to slow the spread, test more effectively, discover antibodies, and ultimately develop a vaccine. The World Health Organization (WHO) is vital to these collective efforts. The United States must continue to fund WHO so that there is no interruption to their work.

The American Academy of Nursing has a clear and distinct focus on social determinants of health and uses this lens to advance policies. The recent information locally regarding health inequities and how the virus is affecting developing countries presents a pervasive threat to health equity everywhere. Critical investment by the U.S. in WHO advances global access to resources and protects global health security.

The demand for evidence is great and the mission is clear—save lives now and protect them in the future. As we have seen throughout this pandemic, danger to international health is a danger to local health due to the increasing interconnectedness of our world. Now is the time to engage in more global health diplomacy, not less. The U.S. commitment to the WHO during this pandemic must remain strong.

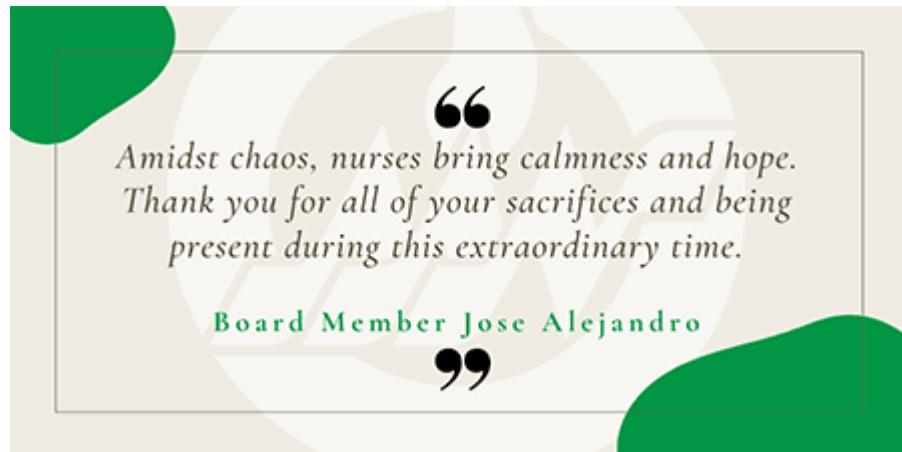
Eileen Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President  
American Academy of Nursing

*National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. Global Health and the Future Role of the United States. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/24737>.*

*American Academy of Nursing Policy Brief: Global health diplomacy: An integrative review of the literature and implications for nursing. Nursing Outlook 61 (March 2013) 85-92.*

**Connect Fellow to Fellow - Academy Launches a COVID-19 Discussion Forum**

To help facilitate Fellow-to-Fellow conversations around the pandemic, we have created a private [COVID-19 Discussion](#) forum. This is an opportunity for you to share your stories, photos, videos, anecdotes, resources, and other pertinent information with each other and the Academy staff. *Please contact Austin Hunte with questions or if you need help accessing the site.*



## From the Front Lines



**Anne Gross**, PhD, RN, FAAN, NEA-BC, Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) has been working throughout the pandemic to ensure her team is able to tackle the coronavirus head-on. She shared the following message to inspire us all as we continue to grapple with the pandemic. “Wishing each of you the strength you need to forge through these incredibly challenging times, the courage to rise above personal fears to

be present for patients in person and remotely, and the comfort that is found in caring for each other and for oneself. This is a marathon, not a sprint...Together we can endure, persevere and eventually defeat the COVID-19 virus.” In addition to their normal operations, [researchers at DFCI](#) are also currently utilizing their experience from the SARS and MERS outbreaks to develop an antibody therapy for COVID-19 patients as well.

*(Photo: Dr. Gross, left, with a colleague. Provided by Dr. Gross.)*

## Financial Relief for Nurses

The **American Nurses Foundation (ANF)** launched a [Coronavirus Response Fund for Nurses](#). Members of the public can demonstrate their [appreciation and support](#) for nurses who are on the frontline caring for patients during this pandemic, despite significant risk to their well-being and safety.

The **American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)** launched a [COVID-19 Nursing Student Support Fund](#). The COVID-19 Nursing Student Support Fund will provide one-time grants to nursing students enrolled in AACN member schools who need financial support to complete their nursing programs and/or meet life expenses.

The **Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) Foundation** announced a COVID-19 Relief Fund for emergency nurses on the frontlines. To apply, please visit this [site](#).

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)** provided \$50 million in immediate short-term relief to several national and community organizations such as Feeding America and Meals on Wheels.

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## News & Updates from Organizations

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The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** released an [update](#) today on the realities nurses are facing on the front lines. For more international resources, visit their [website](#).

**Cynda Rushton**, PhD, RN, FAAN, Anne and George L. Bunting Professor of Clinical Ethics, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, discussed the conditions and decisions encountered daily by nurses wrestling with the massive health care challenges posed by novel coronavirus. Read the full [interview](#).

The **American Nurses Association (ANA)** [published a webinar](#) titled "Be Confident Protecting Yourself and Providing the Best Care to Your Patients during this COVID-19 Pandemic." For more information, please visit their [website](#).

The **Joint Commission** [published a webinar](#) titled "Preventing Coronavirus Transmission in the Hospital Setting." For more resources, visit their [website](#).

COVID-19 Conversations with **NAM and the American Public Health Association**: Crisis Standards of Care During COVID-19: listen to the [recorded presentation](#). For more information, please visit the [NAM website](#).

The **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)** released a [statement](#): "U.S. Funding for World Health Organization Should Not Be Interrupted During COVID-19 Pandemic, Say Presidents of the NAS, NAE, and NAM."

The **NASEM** is hosting a [webinar](#) next Wednesday, April 22nd titled "Keeping Nursing Home Residents and Staff Safe in the Era of COVID-19" featuring Fellows **Terri Fulmer**, PhD, RN, FAAN as moderator and **Alice Bonner**, PhD, RN, FAAN as a speaker. Register [here](#).

The **National Governors Association (NGA)** [published](#) "Governor Actions to Address PPE and Ventilator Shortages." They also [published](#) "The Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing) Response to COVID-19." For the full list of resources, visit the [website](#).

**Penn Nursing** is offering a new [Telehealth Online Course](#) free to all Healthcare Providers. Click [here](#) to visit and use the code ASPIRE100 when registering.

The **Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)** released an [article](#): "State Action to Limit Abortion Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Another [article](#) outlines the ripple effects of the virus: "Changes in Income and Health Coverage Eligibility After Job Loss Due to COVID-19."

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## Federal Government Response

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**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA)**

- CDC [released](#) demographic data of COVID-19 patients in the United States.

- Guidance for Certifying Deaths Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) [webinar recording](#).
- [Register](#) for COVID-19 in the United States: Insights from Healthcare Systems

### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Activity**

- CMS [announced](#) that Medicare will nearly double payment for certain lab tests that use high-throughput technologies to rapidly diagnose large numbers of COVID-19 cases.
- CMS provided supplemental information for transferring or discharging residents between skilled nursing facilities and/or nursing facilities based on COVID-19 status (i.e., positive, negative, unknown/under observation). Read the [additional guidance](#).
- CMS released additional guidance to states on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES). Access the [Fact Sheet](#).
- CMS [released](#) more guidance for virtual care, explaining Medicare Advantage (MA) organizations and other organizations that submit diagnoses for risk adjusted payment are able to submit diagnoses for risk adjustment that are from telehealth visits when those visits meet all criteria for risk adjustment eligibility, which include being from an allowable inpatient, outpatient, or professional service, and from a face-to-face encounter.
- CMS [announced](#) the removal of Non-Invasive Ventilator (NIV) Product Category from DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program. By removing NIVs from Round 2021 of the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program, any Medicare-enrolled DMEPOS supplier can furnish any of the types of ventilators covered under the Medicare program.
- CMS [issued](#) guidance to ensure Americans with private health insurance have coverage of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnostic testing and certain other related services, including antibody testing, at no cost. See [additional guidance](#).
- CMS [suspended](#) a number of rules so that hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare facilities can boost their frontline medical staffs as they fight to save lives during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The suspension focuses on expanding access to rural communities through telehealth, expanding the exams performed by nurse practitioners, and more. Read the [fact sheet](#): COVID-19 Emergency Declaration Blanket Waivers for Health Care Providers.
- 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.

### **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

- FDA [encourages](#) recovered patients to donate plasma for development of blood-related therapies. For more information about donation, please visit the [website](#).

### **National Institute of Health (NIH)**

- NIH [begins](#) study to quantify undetected cases of coronavirus infection. The results will help illuminate the extent to which the novel coronavirus has spread undetected in the United States and provide insights into which communities and populations are most affected.

### **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)**

- NIAID [released](#) a study which validates decontamination methods for Re-Use of N95 Respirators. The [results](#) have not been peer-reviewed but have been published to help

combat the spread of the novel coronavirus.

### Social Security Administration (SSA)

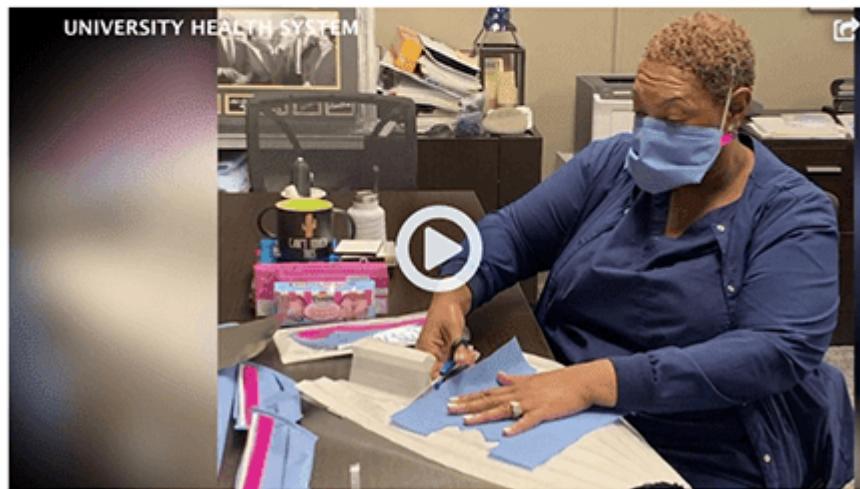
- Seema Verma, CMS Director, authored [authored](#) “Coronavirus-Related Medicare Scam Alert” warning Medicare recipients of the risk of scam calls.



(Source: [ABC 4](#))

## Local nurse designs mask with 99.5% filtration efficiency

UHS said a surge in COVID-19 patients is predicted to happen in May



(Source: [KSAT.com](#))

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