

# COVID-19

## Weekly Digest



April 24, 2020

### Academy Actions



#### **Summary of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act**

On April 21, 2020, the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. The bill passed in the House of Representatives on April 23rd and the President signed it into law today, April 24th. Below is an outline of some key provisions included in this coronavirus relief package. Congress continues to discuss additional spending packages to support the impact of COVID-19.

- Health Provisions:
  - \$75 billion to reimburse hospitals as well as healthcare providers for health care-related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to the coronavirus outbreak.
  - \$25 billion for expenses to research, develop, validate, manufacture, purchase, administer, and expand capacity for COVID-19 tests to effectively monitor and suppress COVID-19. \$11 billion of this funding is provided specifically for states, localities, territories, and tribes to increase COVID-19 testing, scale-up laboratory capacity, trace contacts, and support employer testing.
  - \$1 billion provided to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for surveillance, laboratory capacity expansion, contact tracing, and public health data surveillance.
  - \$1.8 billion provided to the National Institutes of Health to advance research, development, and implementation of rapid testing at the point of care as well as

- public and private partnerships to research, develop, and implement the activities.
- \$1 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority for development, production, and purchase of diagnostic or other COVID-19 tests or related supplies.
  - \$825 million for Community Health Centers and rural health clinics.
- Small Business Provisions:
    - \$321 billion for the depleted Paycheck Protection Program as well as increases to the authorization level for the program by \$310 billion.
    - \$50 billion for the Disaster Loans Program Account.
    - \$2 billion for the Small Business Administration to cover salaries and expenses for federal employees.

### 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.*

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### From the Front Lines

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**Jeff Doucette**, DNP, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, and his team of nurses dubbed the “Swab Squad” were [featured on Ellen](#) this week in an emotional interview. The hospital was the first in the Philadelphia region to establish a drive-thru coronavirus testing center. “One of the

most important things that you’ve heard about is people staying at home when they’re not feeling well,” said Dr. Doucette. “And so what this team has been able to do is test over 2,000 people and [have them stay] home where they need to recover.” The team recently received national media attention for their viral [video](#) which featured the group dancing to Ciara’s “Level Up.” The song was chosen because of the team’s deep commitment to their patients and their desire to “level up” in the care they provide each day. Holding back tears, many of the nurses shared their experiences treating patients and supporting each other in this difficult time. “This team has come together and formed this amazing family that has really kept this community safe,” Dr. Doucette added.

(Photo: The “Swab Squad” Source: [Ellen](#))

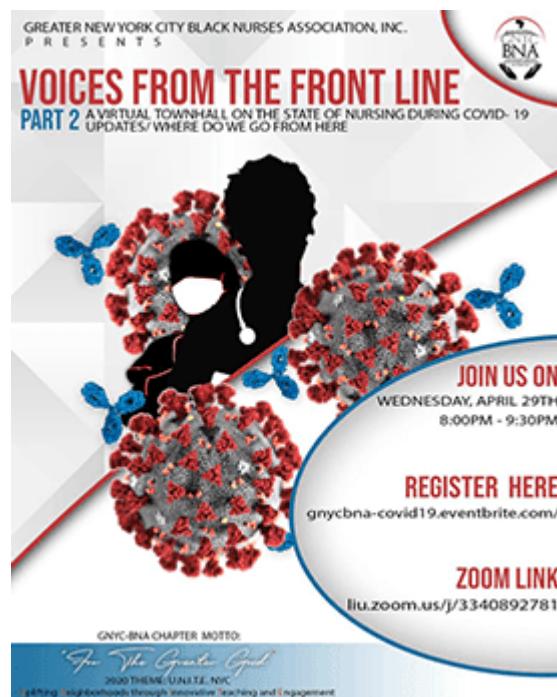
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### News & Updates from Organizations

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The **Greater New York City Black Nurses Association** [will host](#) a Town Hall: The State of Nursing amidst Covid-19.

The **National Black Nurses Association (NBNA)** released a [statement](#), *The Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on the Black Community*.



### The Kaiser Family Foundation

(KFF) [released](#) an article "Growing Data Underscore that Communities of Color are Being Harder Hit by COVID-19." For more information, visit their [website](#).

### The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

(NAACP) [released](#) "Coronavirus Equity Considerations." For more information, visit the [coronavirus resource page](#).

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN Critical Care) has made available an extensive array of [online clinical resources](#) for ICU and non-ICU nurses. These include a [free course](#) on COVID-19 pulmonary, ARDS and ventilators; [clinical procedures](#); and [pocket reference cards](#). In addition, AACN

Critical Care published position statements on [personal protective equipment](#) and [moral distress in times of crisis](#).

COVID-19 Conversations with **NAM and the American Public Health Association**: Current Knowledge, Challenges, and Ensuring Equitable Access: listen to the [recorded presentation](#). You can [register](#) for the NAS Annual Meeting for a COVID-19 Update or [register](#) for the COVID-19 Technology Access Framework. For more information, please visit the [NAM website](#).

The **National Governors Association (NGA)** sent a [letter](#) to Congress outlining the states' needs for increased testing and PPE. For the full list of resources, please visit the [website](#).



### Penn Leonard Davis Institute of Health

**Economics Nurse Researcher, Adriana Perez, PhD, ANP-BC, FAAN**, discusses the impact of COVID-19 on Latino Elders in North Philadelphia. "The pandemic continues to shed a light on the disparities in the community...In my study we are looking at community level factors and their impact on overall wellness," said Dr. Perez. [Learn more](#).

Academy Edge Runner the **Mantram Repetition Program**, created by **Jill Bormann, PhD, RN, FAAN**, is an evidence-based intervention ideal for managing stress. This [interview](#) with Dr. Bormann further describes the program. Learn more about the model [here](#).

**POLITICO reported** that "American nursing homes will now be required to report coronavirus cases directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as to patients and their families...The directive from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services marks a significant change in practice. The CDC has not formally tracked the number of COVID-19 cases that spread inside homes for vulnerable elderly patients." The Academy continues to request protections for the most vulnerable populations and those living in crowded environments, such as nursing homes and long-term care facilities, that have limited ability to practice social distancing. [Read more](#).

The **Santa Fe Group (SFG)** [announced](#) a call to action for the dental profession to combat COVID-19 which is pertinent since the pandemic significantly impacts access to dental care. To learn more about the connection oral health has to overall health, view Academy Edge Runner model, [Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice Program](#), created by **Judith Haber**, PhD, APRN, FAAN (who serves as the only nurse member of SFG) and **Erin Hartnett**, DNP, PNPPC-BC, CPNP.

Living Legend, **Linda S. Schwartz**, RN, MSN, DrPH, FAAN, and leaders from the **Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)** released a [letter](#) to offer understanding and support to those battling COVID-19 on the frontlines. "In the midst of this pandemic, one the likes of which we have never before seen, we, as veterans, are transported back to memories of our service during the Vietnam War...We know from our wartime experiences the feelings of social isolation: little contact with family; the endless, incoming casualties; the stressful anxiety of making triage decisions; and the frustration of lacking critical medical equipment and personal safety items...We write this letter because we believe we share a commonality of serving our nation in a time of uncertainty and need. You are the very essence of what makes America great." [Read more](#).

The **Ohio State University** (Ohio State) and **Trusted Health** launched a new [emotional support line](#) to promote mental health and well-being among nurses on the front lines of the pandemic. "Our healthcare professionals on the front lines of this pandemic deserve not only our highest regards for their selfless service, but also our support to handle what they are feeling and experiences because of this crisis," said **Bernadette M. Melnyk**, PhD, APRN-CNP, EBP-C, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN, vice president for health promotion, university chief wellness officer, and dean of the College of Nursing at Ohio State. [Read more](#).

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** [released](#) an article "Worldwide death toll from COVID-19 among nurses may be far higher." For more international resources, visit their [website](#).

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** [updated](#) their COVID-19 strategy document.

## Federal Government Response

As of April 22, 2020

Total Cases*	Total Deaths*	Total Jurisdictions**
828,441	46,379	55

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

- CDC continues to [update](#) demographic data of COVID-19 patients in the United States.
- *COVID-19 in the United States: Insights from Healthcare Systems* [webinar recording](#).

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

- CMS [released](#) a new toolkit for states to help accelerate adoption of broader telehealth coverage policies in the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Find the [toolkit](#) here.
- CMS [released](#) a new toolkit to help state and local healthcare decision makers maximize workforce flexibilities when confronting the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in their communities. Find the [toolkit](#) here.
- CMS [issued](#) critical guidance allowing licensed, independent freestanding emergency departments (IFEDs) in Colorado, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Texas to temporarily

provide care to Medicare and Medicaid patients to address any surge. Read the [guidance](#).

- CMS and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), in conjunction with the HHS Office of Inspector General (OIG), [announced](#) a policy of enforcement discretion to allow compliance flexibilities regarding the implementation of the interoperability final rules announced on March 9, 2020. Read the [guidance](#).
- CMS [issued](#) guidance on providing essential non-COVID-19 care to patients without symptoms of COVID-19 in regions with low and stable incidence of COVID-19. Read the [recommendations](#).
- CMS [announced](#) new regulatory requirements that will require nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. The nursing homes will also report this information to the CDC. Read the full [guidance](#).
- 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 [authorized](#) the first test for Patient At-Home sample collection.



## National Institute of Health (NIH)

- NIH [released](#) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) [treatment guidelines](#).
- NIH [launched](#) a private-public partnership to speed COVID-19 vaccine and treatment options.
- NIH [Director's Blog](#) on "The Challenge of Tracking COVID-19's Stealthy Spread."

## US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)

- VA's National Center for PTSD [released](#) "Managing Healthcare Workers' Stress Associated with the COVID-19 Virus Outbreak."



On behalf of the Academy's staff, **THANK YOU** for all that you are doing in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

## COVID-19 Resources

## Policy News

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