

# COVID-19

## Weekly Digest



April 3, 2020

### Academy Actions



The Academy applauds the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for taking further steps to ensure patients get the care they need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The actions taken this week include increasing health workforce capacity by:

- Removing barriers so nurses can readily be hired from the local community as well as those licensed in other states without violating Medicare rules;
- Issuing waivers so that hospitals can use nurse practitioners to the fullest extent possible such as ordering tests and medications;
- Waiving requirements so that certified registered nurse anesthetists have full practice authority permitted under state law; and
- Allowing hospitals to provide support to the healthcare workforce including child care services while treating patients. The Academy called for this support in our [meeting with the White House](#) and in the [CARES Act](#).
- CMS also temporarily eliminates paperwork requirements so that nurses can focus on providing care. The Academy supports this action as it correlates with our policy priority to [Reduce Patient, Provider, and Health System Burden](#).
- We also applaud CMS for promoting the use of Telehealth so that patients have access to their health care providers while remaining safely at home. This key action supports the Academy's policy priority to [Promote Innovation and Sustainability](#) and is an item we pushed for in our communications with the White House and Congress.

### From the Front Lines

In an effort to protect its nurses and front line healthcare workers, Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC launched the ability to rapidly test employees and inpatients through its



lab ([read more](#)).

Fellow and Academy Board Treasurer, **Kathy Chavanu Gorman**, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, is the Executive Vice President for Patient Care Services and Chief Operating Officer at Children's National and was recently [interviewed](#) about strategies the hospital has implemented in response to COVID-19. Children's National has also started a drive-thru testing site for referred pediatric patients, which helps their efforts to conserve the hospital's personal protective equipment supply. Gorman's team continues to look at innovative solutions to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the hospital's resources, their workforce, and the patients they serve.

(Photo Source: [Children's National](#))

## News & Updates from National Organizations

**COVID-19 Conversations with NAM and the American Public Health Association: The Science of Social Distancing Part 2:** listen to the [recorded presentation](#). For more information, please visit the [NAM website](#).

**Strategies for Health Care Leaders During COVID-19**

bit.ly/CWCOVID19  
#ClinicianWellBeing

1 Value clinicians	5 Enable cooperation & collaboration
2 Communicate best practices	6 Provide central information access point
3 Monitor & promote clinician well-being	7 Ensure clinicians aren't required to return to work during dire situation
4 Provide supportive environment	8 Provide appropriate resources if clinicians are infected

The NAM Transportation Research Board **TRB Webinar: The Supply Chain and COVID-19 Advisory Board** is releasing a multi-part series titled: "[COVID-19: What health care leaders need to know](#)." See last week's [presentation](#).

**American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)** held a call on [Disability Rights and Medical Rationing in relation to COVID-19](#).

**American Nurses Association (ANA)** released the [Crisis Standards of Care](#) for nurses on the frontlines of the pandemic.

**American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA)** published [tips for managing stress and self-care](#) during the pandemic.

**Peterson and Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)** Healthy System Tracker [issued a report](#) about the U.S. preparation compared to the rest of the world. In addition, they released [FAQs on Medicare Coverage and Cost Related to COVID-19 Testing and Treatment](#).

**Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR)** is still collecting stories about nurse scientists on the front line of the pandemic to shine a light on the critical role they play.

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## Federal Government Response

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

- Clinical Management of Critically Ill Adults with COVID-19 webinar [recording](#).

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

- CMS issued an electronic [toolkit](#) regarding telehealth and telemedicine for Long Term Care Nursing Home Facilities. Most of the information is directed towards providers who may want to establish a permanent telemedicine program, but there is information that will help in the temporary deployment of telemedicine health as well. Take a look at the [FAQs](#) for more guidance.
- CMS announced [an expansion](#) of its accelerated and advance payment program for Medicare participating health care providers and suppliers, to ensure they have the resources needed to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Access the Accelerated/Advance payment process [Fact Sheet](#).
- CMS [sent a letter](#) to the nation's hospitals asking them to report COVID-19 testing data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in addition to daily reporting regarding bed capacity and supplies to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity Module.
- CMS issued an array of [temporary regulatory waivers and new rules](#) to equip the American healthcare system with maximum flexibility to respond to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). These changes were made to: (1) increase hospital capacity, (2) expand the healthcare workforce, (3) put patients over paperwork, and (4) promote telehealth in Medicare. Access the [Regulatory Changes Fact Sheet](#) and the [Coronavirus Waivers & Flexibilities Fact Sheet](#).
- CMS has held [multiple 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.

### **National Institute for Nursing Research (NINR)**

- Tara A. Schwetz, PhD, Acting Director, [released a statement](#) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

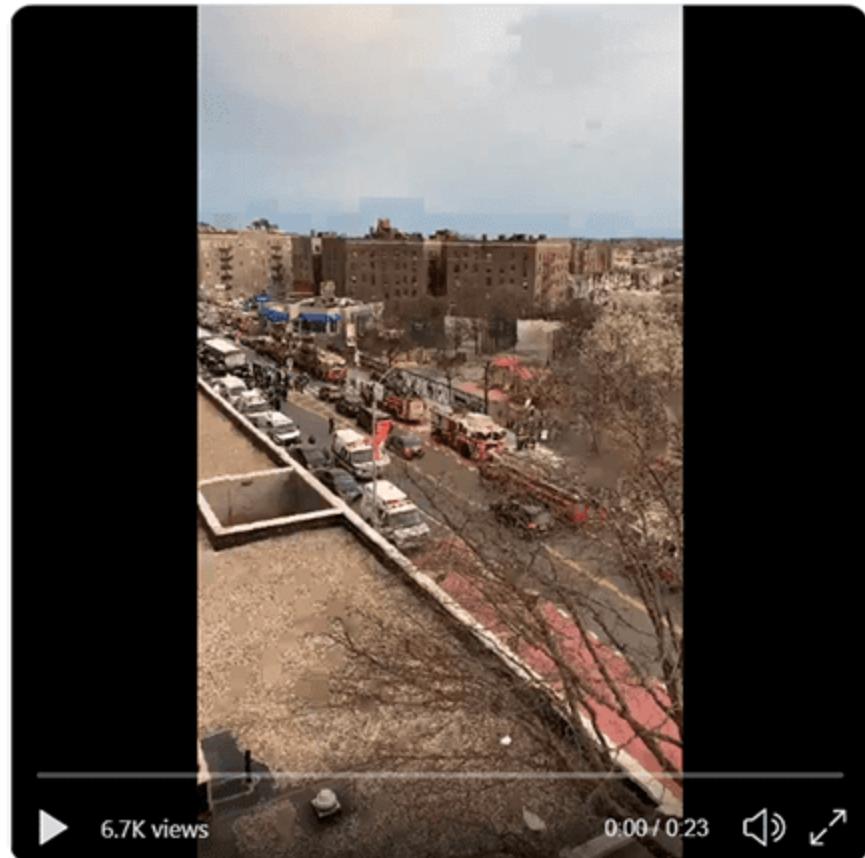
### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

- [Fact Sheet](#) for Provision of methadone and buprenorphine for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in the COVID-19 emergency. For more information, visit the [SAMHSA website](#).
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NYCFireWire @NYCFireWire · 15h

Full turn-out tonight by the 46th Battalion at Elmhurst General showing our love & support for Doctors, Nurses & EMS.



6.7K views



83



336



0:00 / 0:23



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(Source: [Twitter](#))

## COVID-19 Resources

## Policy News

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