The American Academy of Nursing (Academy) applauds the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) for convening an expert committee (including several Academy Fellows) dedicated to examining current and future challenges to make sound recommendations for nurses to work towards achieving health equity. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the challenges nurses face daily and has demonstrated the power of nurses to advance health equity for all. View the recently released Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity Report, a recorded webinar, and additional resources by visiting NAM's website.

The Academy joined the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) “We Can Do This” campaign to support efforts to educate the public on the COVID-19 vaccine. HHS launched a new website to promote the campaign and provide resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VACCINE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Do they work?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are highly effective at preventing COVID-19.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Are they safe?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>The vaccines are safe. While more COVID-19 vaccines are being developed, routine processes and procedures remain in place to ensure the safety of any vaccine that is authorized for use.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Are there side effects?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>You may have side effects. Possible side effects include soreness and swelling at the injection site, fever, chills, fatigue, and headache, but they should go away in a few days.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Do I need to be vaccinated if I’ve had the virus already?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and reinfection with COVID-19 is possible, particularly from new forms (or variants) of the virus that causes COVID-19. You should get vaccinated even if you’ve already had the virus.</td>
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</tbody>
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Academy Fellows Laura N. Gitlin, PhD, FGSA, FAAN, Dean and Distinguished University Professor, Drexel University and Rose Ann DiMaria-Ghalili, PhD, RN, FASPEN, FAAN, FGSA, Professor of Nursing, Associate Dean of Interprofessional Research and Development, Drexel University are two of the leading authors in a new report published by AARP Pennsylvania and Drexel University’s College of Nursing and Health Professions. The report, Disrupting Disparities in Pennsylvania Retooling for Geographic, Racial and Ethnic Growth, highlights the geographic, racial/ethnic, and economic factors that restrict access to healthcare services in Pennsylvania, especially among older adults, and how these factors have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This in-depth analysis provides several key recommendations including increasing broadband and telehealth access as well as the ability of providers to care for patients in telehealth settings. Additionally, the report calls attention to nursing and health professional shortages throughout the state as well as the critical need to better prepare a health care workforce to provide culturally competent care in prevention and chronic disease management. This timely
Fellow Vaccine Efforts

The University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG) School of Nursing collaborated with the Guilford County Health Department to provide a clinic on the UNCG campus during March and April to vaccinate the public against COVID-19. The clinic was organized by Audrey Snyder, PhD, RN, ACNP-BC, FAAN, FAEN, FAANP, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning and Innovation, and over the 6 weeks the clinic operated over 7,400 vaccines were administered. Twenty-four nursing faculty and 101 nursing students along with nursing alumni staffed the clinic contributing more than 5,000 hours of clinical time (pictured below).

Tener Goodwin Veenema, PhD, MS, MPH, RN, FAAN, has been working with the national CommuniVax Coalition, which is strengthening national and local COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the United States by putting communities of color at the center of those endeavors. The coalition is listening to Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Indigenous individuals on how best to promote awareness of, access to, and acceptability of COVID-19 vaccines in their respective communities and is developing longstanding, local governance systems that enable underserved groups to exercise collective agency over their own health and wellness, during this pandemic and going forward. As co-chair of the coalition's Implementation workgroup, Dr. Veenema has hosted a webinar on the importance of a community-centric public health approach.

Fellow Highlights

Tim Cunningham, DrPH, MSN, RN, FAAN, will lead a webinar titled “Nursing Stories Untold: Compassion Unbound” on Wednesday, May 19th at 2pm ET.

Donna M. Hallas, PhD, PMHS, PPCNP-BC, CPNP, FAAN, FAANP, was interviewed by WYNC News for a segment titled, "What NY Parents Should Know About COVID Vaccines For 12-To-15-Year-Olds."

Christine Grady, PhD, MSN, RN, FAAN, is featured in an article in the La Crosse Tribute titled “Nursing Research on the Green features bioethicist Dr. Christine Grady.”

Susan Grant, DNP, RN, FAAN, is quoted in an article titled “Beaumont sets up triage units, tents outside some hospitals to manage COVID-19 surge” by Detroit Free Press.

Kelly Hancock, DNP, RN, NE-BC, FAAN, wrote an article titled “Celebrating the Expert, Compassionate Care of Nurses,” about nurses stepping up during the pandemic and beyond.

Sarah Szanton, PhD, MSN, ANP, RN, FAAN, will be featured in the series of workshops titled “Financing that Rewards Better Health and Well-Being: A Workshop Series” hosted by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM).
American Nurses Association (ANA) published a series of quick videos and webinars on “Effective Mental Health Self-Care Tools during the Pandemic.”

International Council of Nurses (ICN) released a video from President Annette Kennedy featuring her 2021 International Nurses Day message.


Kaiser Health News (KHN) published an article titled “Biden Boasts About Equitable Senior Vaccination Rate by Race Without Data to Back It Up.” KHN published an article titled “Covid ‘Doesn’t Discriminate by Age’: Serious Cases on the Rise in Younger Adults.”

Minority Nurse published a blog post titled “Vaccine Challenges Facing the Hispanic Community.”

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) and American Public Health Association (APHA) will host a webinar titled “Learning to Live With COVID-19” on Wednesday, May 26th at 5pm ET.


The National Association of Indian Nurses of America (NAINA) has launched a COVID-19 relief fundraiser to support India’s pandemic crisis. To bolster NAINA’s efforts, the Tri-Council for Nursing published a press release titled “Tri-Council for Nursing Issues Urgent Appeal to Support Nurses in India Battling COVID-19 ‘Tsunami.’”

The National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation hosted a webinar titled “Environmental Health: Air Pollution, COVID-19 & Health Disparities.”

National Governors Association (NGA) published a press release titled “Phased Allocation Of COVID-19 Vaccines: State And Territorial Approaches.”


The University of Pennsylvania has published an article, “Dear Pandemic: Nurses as Key Partners in Fighting the COVID-19 Infodemic” about their work to combat misinformation online.

World Health Organization (WHO) published a press release titled “WHO’s work in all regions remains critical in the ongoing fight against COVID-19.” WHO published a press release titled “Fighting misinformation in the time of COVID-19, one click at a time.”

Federal Government Response

New Federal Resource: Vaccines.gov

The Biden Administration has launched a new website, Vaccines.gov, to find a vaccine location near you, then call or visit their website to make an appointment. This website has an accompanying phone number (1-800-232-0233) individuals can use if they need help finding a vaccine near them or do not have internet access.
• CDC published guidance on the “SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions.”


• CDC published general information titled “Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Overview and Safety.”

• CDC’s MMWR released a report titled “Effectiveness of Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna Vaccines Against COVID-19 Among Hospitalized Adults Aged ≥65 Years — United States, January–March 2021.”

• CDC published guidance titled “COVID-19 Vaccine Monitoring Systems for Pregnant People.”

• CDC published guidance titled “Key Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines.”

• CDC’s MMWR released a report titled “Modeling of Future COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, by Vaccination Rates and Nonpharmaceutical Intervention Scenarios — United States, April–September 2021.”

• CDC published a toolkit titled “Air Travel Toolkit for Airline Partners.”

• CDC published a press release titled “Fully Vaccinated Adults 65 and Older Are 94% Less Likely to Be Hospitalized with COVID-19.”

• CDC published a brief titled “Scientific Brief: SARS-CoV-2 Transmission.”

• 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 issued a rule that will ensure long-term care facilities, and residential facilities serving clients with intellectual disabilities, educate and offer the COVID-19 vaccine to residents, clients, and staff.

• CMS announced the increase of the Medicare payment rate for administering monoclonal antibodies to treat beneficiaries with COVID-19, continuing coverage under the Medicare Part B COVID-19 vaccine benefit.

• CMS proposed a rule to enhance the medical workforce in rural and underserved communities to support COVID-19 recovery and beyond.

• 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.
Department for Health and Human Services (HHS)

- **HHS** published a press release titled “HHS Awards $40 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Emergency Home Visiting Assistance for Families Affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- **HHS** published a press release titled “HHS Secretary Becerra, HUD Secretary Fudge Announce Joint Effort to Increase Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations.”
- **HHS** published a press release titled “HHS Announces $250 Million from American Rescue Plan to Develop and Support a Community-Based Workforce to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in Underserved Communities.”
- **HHS** published a press release titled “HHS Announces Nearly $1 Billion from American Rescue Plan for Rural COVID-19 Response.”
- **HHS** published a press release titled “HHS Launches New Reimbursement Program for COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Fees not Covered by Insurance.”
- **HHS** published a press release titled “HHS Awards Over $32 Million in American Rescue Plan Funding to Expand COVID-19 Training and Support for Health Centers.”

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- **FDA** published a press release titled “FDA Authorizes Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Emergency Use in Adolescents in Another Important Action in Fight Against Pandemic.”
- **FDA** announced the “FDA to Hold Meeting of its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee to Discuss Pediatric Use of COVID-19 Vaccines” on June 10, 2021 via webcast.
- **FDA** published a press release titled “FDA Outlines Inspection and Assessment Activities During Pandemic, Roadmap for Future State of Operations.”

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **Dr. Francis Collins** published a blog titled “How Severe COVID-19 Can Tragically Lead to Lung Failure and Death.”
- **NIH** published a press release titled “NIH to invest $29 million to address COVID-19 disparities.”
- **NIH** published a press release titled “COVID-19 vaccine responses to be studied in people with immune deficits.”
- **Dr. Francis Collins** published a blog titled “Dynamic View of Spike Protein Reveals Prime Targets for COVID-19 Treatments.”
• NIH published a press release titled “Clinical trial of therapeutics for severely ill hospitalized COVID-19 patients begins.”
• Dr. Francis Collins published a blog titled “A Real-World Look at COVID-19 Vaccines Versus New Variants.”
• NIH published a press release titled “Large NIH clinical trial will test polyclonal antibody therapeutic for COVID-19.”
• NIH published a press release titled “Large clinical trial to study repurposed drugs to treat COVID-19 symptoms.”
• Dr. Francis Collins published a blog titled “Study Demonstrates Saliva Can Spread Novel Coronavirus.”
• NIH published a press release titled “Experimental antiviral for COVID-19 effective in hamster study.”
• NIH published a press release titled “NIH-funded COVID-19 testing initiative aims to safely return children to in-person school.”

US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)

• The HELP Committee held a hearing titled “An Update from Federal Officials on Efforts to Combat COVID-19.”

Washington nurses paying out of pocket to help with COVID-19 crisis in India

Source: Q13 FOX

Note: The COVID Digest distribution schedule has been adjusted to once a month on the second Wednesday for consistency with other Academy newsletter communications.
Unsubscribe from these messages.