

COVID-19 DIGEST



May 12, 2021

Academy Update

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.

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VACCINE		WE CAN DO THIS
Do they work?	Yes	All COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are highly effective at preventing COVID-19.
Are they safe?	Yes	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.
Are there side effects?	Yes	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.
Do I need to be vaccinated if I've had the virus already?	Yes	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.

Featured Fellow



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

report provides a path forward for caring for older adults in historically underserved areas through innovative approaches, especially as the nation continues to distribute COVID-19 vaccines and information.

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 of 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 Family Foundation (KFF) [published a policy brief](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccines for 12-15-Year-Olds: Considerations for Vaccine Roll-Out.” **KFF** [published a policy brief](#) titled “Supply vs Demand: Which States are Reaching their COVID-19 Vaccine Tipping Points?”

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.

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) [hosted a webinar](#) titled “COVID-19 Vaccines: Building Confidence and Explaining Efficacy Webinar.” **NASEM** [launched an initiative](#) titled “Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN): Facilitating Rapid and Actionable Responses to Social, Behavioral, and Economic-Related COVID-19 Questions.” **NASEM** [updated a list of publications and resources](#) on the initiative titled “Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats.”

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 New England Journal of Medicine [published an article](#), “Missing the Point — How Primary Care Can Overcome Covid-19 Vaccine ‘Hesitancy.’”

New York Public Radio [released a podcast](#) titled “What NY Parents Should Know About COVID Vaccines for 12-To-15-Year-Olds.”

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.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC [published guidance](#) on the “SARS-CoV-2 Variant Classifications and Definitions.”
- CDC’s **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report** (MMWR) [released a report](#) titled “Demographic and Social Factors Associated with COVID-19 Vaccination Initiation Among Adults Aged Over 65 Years — United States, December 14, 2020–April 10, 2021.”
- 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.

COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

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