Academy Actions

The House of Representatives released the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES) Act on May 12th. In preparation of this package, the Academy sent a letter to Congressional leadership outlining our recommendations. Click here for a full summary of the bill. A more in-depth analysis will be available in Academy Insider next week.

Academy Releases Additional Videos to Celebrate Nurses Month

To highlight this week's theme, recognition, the Academy released videos that feature Fellows recognizing the innovative spirit of nurses and their creativity in addressing challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic. To celebrate International Nurses Day on May 12th, the Academy released a video to thank our International Fellows.

View video - Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

View video - Lauran Hardin, MSN, CNL, FNAP, FAAN, Senior Advisor, Camden Coalition's National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs

View video - John Lowe, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor, Endowed McKenzie Chair for Health Disparities Research, Director, Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity, Florida State University

You can also recognize nurses you know that have embodied this innovative spirit through a donation to the Academy's "Celebrate Nursing" campaign. Visit the Academy's Nurses Month page for more information. New videos, content, and resources will be added throughout the month of May.

Connect Fellow to Fellow through the 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**

Jeannette Ives Erickson, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN is serving as the Co-Medical and Operations Director of Boston Hope, a 1,000-bed field hospital located inside the Boston Convention Center. This facility serves non-critical COVID-19 patients as well as the homeless population who have no protection against the pandemic. "It is extremely important to us as we created this model that we were able to isolate and care for the unsheltered population in our city to help flatten the curve, and to provide eastern Massachusetts hospitals a relief valve to create more available space for those requiring life-saving acute care," Dr. Ives Erickson told the Academy. She also shared that the medical center has cared for almost 700 patients since opening its doors on April 10th. WBUR’s Lynn Jolicoeur reported that “Those at the field hospital hope the spirit that led to this facility will carry on in the form of greater cooperation to help people struggling with homelessness after the crisis is over.”

(Photos provided by Dr. Ives Erickson.)

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**News & Updates from Organizations**

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) and DearWorld.org announced a partnership to share dynamic photos (example pictured left) to tell the "stories of 40 nurses from COVID-19 units across the state of Louisiana." This collection exemplifies the working conditions of hospitals around the United States and the extraordinary people who are providing care.

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care recorded a webinar: “Year of the Nurse and Midwife: HIV Nurses and the COVID-19 Response” featuring Carole Treston, MPH, RN, ACRN, FAAN; Sheila Davis, DNP, ANP-BC, FAAN; and Susan Michaels-Strasser, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. For more information, visit the website.

American Nurse, the American Nurses Association's official journal, published an article, “Make treatment accessible for opioid use disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic," authored by Matthew Tierney, MS, NP, FAAN; Kathleen Delaney, PhD, APRN, PMH-NP,
FAAN; Deborah S. Finnell, DNS, CARN-AP, FAAN; Madeline Naegle, PhD, CNS-PMH, BC, FAAN; and Mona Shattell, PhD, RN, FAAN.

Ukamaka M. Oruche, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, helped organize the initiative: Be Well Indiana, which released important information on managing mental health during the global pandemic as well as some video resources. Dr. Oruche was interviewed on “Indy’s Connection: Voting During COVID-19 and Taking Care of Mental Health” where she discussed the mental health resources available amidst the spread of the coronavirus.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) published a statement: “Nursing the World to Health” to both celebrate International Nurses Day and to call for action for better preparation for future pandemics and infectious diseases.

Johns Hopkins University & Free Learn announced a free course: “COVID-19: Effective Nursing in Times of Crisis.” The course will identify key characteristics of COVID-19 such as their effect on vulnerable populations and the impact of public health crises.

The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) released an article: “Older Adults Are Hit Hard by COVID-19 – and Also Losing Jobs.” For more information, visit the KFF coronavirus policy watch page.

The Kentucky Nurses Association released a webinar: “Guided Loving Kindness” featuring Cheryl Woods Giscombe, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC, FAAN and Vickie Hines-Martin, PhD, PMHCNS, RN, FAAN.


The National Black Nurses Association and Movement is Life recorded a podcast: “Celebrating National Nurses Week 2020 – Special Round Table Episode” featuring Honorary Fellow Millicent Gorham, MBA, FAAN.

Betty Ferrell, PhD, RN, FPCN, FAAN appeared on PBS NewsHour to discuss the key role of training nurses in palliative care, especially during the global pandemic. “Let's celebrate the good care, because, at the end of the day, what we all have to say is, we showed up.” Dr. Ferrell also highlights the City of Hope and American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s (AACN) initiative: End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium.

Janice Phillips, PhD, RN, CENP, FAAN and Cathy Catrambone, PhD, RN, FAAN wrote an op-ed, “Nurses Are Playing a Crucial Role in this Pandemic—As Always,” in Scientific American.
The University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing will host a webinar: "A Conversation with Eileen Sullivan-Marx." The webinar offers a unique opportunity to join two nursing leaders as they talk about Eileen Sullivan-Marx's, PhD, RN, FAAN, journey to becoming a nurse leader, her innovative research and community commitment, and what it's like to be a voice for nurses and nursing in New York City during the current pandemic.

The United Hospital Fund published an article: “COVID-19, Cities, and Health” authored by Anthony Shih, MD and Honorary Fellow Jo Ivey Boufford, MD, FAAN about the connection of population density in cities with the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19. The authors share that “ensuring that we learn from this experience and consider how best to address these challenges in the future and how to prevent or greatly reduce the negative health and socioeconomic effects of pandemics like COVID-19” should be the focus of cities in the future.

The World Health Organization (WHO) published a press release titled “People living longer and healthier lives but COVID-19 threatens to throw progress off track.” WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus shared that “The bad news is the rate of progress [of life expectancy] is too slow to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and will be further thrown off track by COVID-19.” Additionally, the WHO released a policy brief: “COVID-19 and the Need for Action on Mental Health.”

Federal Government Response

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

- CDC launched a more comprehensive "CDC COVID Data Tracker" to include school closures and testing information.
- CDC continues to update data on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the US.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Activity

- CMS released a new toolkit developed to aid nursing homes, Governors, states, Departments of Health, and other agencies who provide oversight and assistance to these facilities, with additional resources to aid in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic within nursing homes.
- CMS Administrator Seema Verma wrote a letter to nursing home management and staff thanking them for their compassion and care during the pandemic.
- CMS released an updated video to answer frequently asked questions about the expanded Medicare telehealth services benefit during COVID-19.
- CMS issued new waivers for the healthcare community that provide the flexibilities needed to take care of patients during COVID-19.
- 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.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS awarded $15 million to support telehealth providers during COVID-19.
- The Indian Health Services released a statement, "Tribal and Urban Indian Organization Leader Message on COVID-19."
HHS released a recording, "Learning Curve: HHS Secretary Alex Azar on the Race to a Vaccine."

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

- FDA announced it will host a virtual Town Hall for researchers, clinical laboratories, and commercial manufacturers to discuss the production and use of 3D printed swabs during the COVID-19 public health emergency on **May 15 from 1:00-2:00 PM EST**.
- FDA announced it will host a virtual Town Hall for clinical laboratories and commercial manufacturers on **May 20 from 12:15-1:15 PM EST**.
- FDA released a statement, "FDA Takes New Actions to Accelerate Development of Novel Prevention, Treatment Options for COVID-19."
- FDA released a statement, "FDA Authorizes First Antigen Test to Help in the Rapid Detection of the Virus that Causes COVID-19 in Patients."
- FDA released a statement, "FDA Authorizes First Diagnostic Test Using At-Home Collection of Saliva Specimens."

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

- NIH announced a new clinical trial: NIH begins clinical trial of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin to treat COVID-19.
- NIH announced Director Francis Collins, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony S. Fauci, Lawrence Corey, Professor in the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, and John R. Mascola, Director of NIAID's Vaccine Research Center, co-authored "A Strategic Approach to COVID-19 Vaccine R&D" in Science.
- NIH announced a new NIH clinical trial testing antiviral remdesivir plus anti-inflammatory drug baricitinib for COVID-19 begins.
- NIH Director Francis Collins in his Home Edition recorded a video, "Eliseo Pérez-Stable on COVID-19 Health Disparities," with the National Institute on Minority Health and Disparities (NIMHD) Director Dr. Eliseo Pérez-Stable to discuss the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on certain groups and the research NIH is doing to understand these factors.

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

- SAMHSA published "Training and Technical Assistance Related to COVID-19," which includes webinars, resources, and training.

**United States Senate**

- At the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) hearing on COVID on May 12, 2020, Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) asked questions specific to children and risk of COVID in the areas of vaccines and going back to school. He cited the guest editorial in the latest edition of the Journal of Pediatric Nursing entitled "Children are at Risk for COVID-19" written by Child, Adolescent, & Family Expert Panel Vice-Chair Eileen Fry-Bowers, PhD, JD, APRN, FAAN. Senator Cassidy also asked that the Dr. Fry Bowers editorial be included in the hearing record. The Senator's questions start at the 2:10 mark in the hearing and his request occurs at the 2:16 mark.
NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue @BellevueHosp · May 12
Well over 800 @BellevueHosp COVID-19 patients have been discharged home! #Bellevue nurse & doctors held a mini-celebratory parade for Francisca Morales as she was discharged to her waiting #family!

#ThankYou | #Congratulations | #BellevueSpirit | @NYCHealthSystem

(Source: Bellevue Hospital via Twitter)