

COVID-19

Weekly Digest



May 1, 2020

Academy Actions

“

During such a time as this may the wind always be at your back, and the sun shine warm upon your face. Take one day at a time, as this too shall pass, and we will all be stronger on the other side.

Board Member Mary Gullatte

”

Congressional Requests for COVID-19 Stimulus Package

The Academy sent a [letter](#) on April 30th to House and Senate leaders with recommendations on further actions Congress should take in order to address the coronavirus pandemic. Academy staff collated, synthesized, and summarized input and recommendations from all 24 Expert Panels under three major themes:

- Protect our most vulnerable populations;
- Support nurses and healthcare providers; and
- Increase access, scale, speed, and accuracy of testing.

Position Statement on Immunizations

The Academy released a [position statement](#) on April 30th highlighting the importance of immunizations to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases during the World Health Organization's World Immunization Week. As researchers around the globe race for a vaccine to combat the novel coronavirus, it is a stark reminder that biomedical discoveries are a vital linchpin to saving lives. This policy statement originated out of the Academy's Child, Adolescent, and Family Expert Panel with input from the Emerging Infectious Disease and Environmental & Public Health Expert Panels.

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.

From the Front Lines



Clinical practice innovations developed by nurses at Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, [support](#) improved outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The wound care nursing team has contributed to national guidelines for skin protection during prolonged use of N95 masks. The education support team has enhanced [prone positioning techniques](#) essential to matching patient ventilation and perfusion. Senior Vice President and Chief Nurse Executive [David R. Marshall](#), JD, DNP, RN, CENP, NEA-BC, NHDP-BC, FAAN, leads the health system's nursing care while [Bernice Coleman](#), PhD, ACNP-BC, FAHA, FAAN, Director of the Nursing Research Department and Performance Improvement Department, systematically gathers for publication evidence of these contributions. "Nurses always adapt and create. These days it's never ending as we search for innovation to continuously improve patient outcomes," Dr. Coleman says.

(Photo: Cedars-Sinai)

News & Updates from Organizations

The **American Geriatric Society** [published](#) a road map to guide federal, state, and local governments addressing COVID concerns in Assisted Living Facilities (ALFs). Read the [policy brief](#).

The **American Nurses Association (ANA)** released an on-demand [webinar](#), *How to Respond to Ethical Challenges and Moral Distress During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, in which **Lucia Wocial**, PhD, RN, FAAN, HEC-C, participated as a presenter.

Elsevier is [hosting a webinar](#): *A Discussion on COVID-19: Global Perspectives and the Transformation of US Healthcare*.

The **Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research (FNINR)** [shared](#) stories from nurses on the frontlines of the global pandemic.

The **George Washington University's (GWU) Fitzhugh Mullan Institute for Health Worker Equity** [published](#) a State Health Workforce Deficit Estimator to determine areas where health workers might be in short supply.

Harvard T. H. Chan's School of Public Health [featured](#) **Stephanie Ferguson**, PhD, RN, FAAN, (*pictured to the left*) for their *Voices for Leadership During Crisis* series. Dr. Ferguson discussed the central role nurses play in this pandemic and their workforce needs, including increased access to PPE. "This is a matter of national security. If you have nurses who are getting infected and dying, then you don't have a healthcare delivery system, and then you don't have a country."

Health Affairs [published](#) an article, "How California Counties' COVID-19 Response Benefited from the "Whole Person Care" Program."

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** [calls](#) for government action to stop attacks on nurses.

The **Journal of Pediatrics** [published](#) an article, "The COVID-19 pandemic: Technology use to support the wellbeing of children."

The **Kaiser Family Foundation** [published](#) an article an "Update on COVID-19 Funding for Hospitals and Other Providers."

The **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** recorded a number of webinars including [COVID-19 Technology Access Framework](#), [The Science of Where: Mapping the Spread of a Global Pandemic](#), and [COVID-19 & Health Equity: Exploring Disparities & Long-Term Health Impacts](#). For more information, visit the [coronavirus resource page](#).



The **National Black Nurses Association (NBNA)** and the **National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN)** [released](#) a joint statement, *Testing and Contact-Tracing COVID-19 Infections in Communities of Color in New York State*. For additional information, contact **Sheldon Fields**, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, AACRN, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN.

The **New Yorker** [published](#) an article, "A City Nurse: Healing in the ICU during COVID-19," which incorporates photography to depict her experience.

The **University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON)** [announced](#) an early-exit option for students who want to work as a nurse as the pandemic impacts the workforce, [reports WJZ Baltimore](#). UMSON Dean **Jane Kirschling**, PhD, RN, FAAN, is quoted.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** [released a survey](#) to health workers to assess the health and safety of working conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Take the survey [here](#). Additionally, the **WHO/Europe** [published](#) considerations for gradual easing of COVID-19 measures.

Wolters Kluwer has published a [curation of resources](#) on COVID-19 collated by nurse researcher **Elaine Larson**, PhD, RN, FAAN, scholar-in-residence at the New York Academy of Medicine.

Federal Government Response

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.
- CDC has previously held [webinars](#) on a variety of topics related to COVID-19.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Activity

- CMS [announced](#) a new independent Commission that will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the nursing home response to COVID-19.
- CMS [issued](#) more changes including making it easier for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries to get tested for COVID-19 and continuing CMS's efforts to further expand beneficiaries' access to telehealth services.

- CMS [issued a letter](#) thanking clinicians for their ongoing efforts to treat patients and combat COVID-19 and shared additional details on the new Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) improvement activity.
- CMS [issued guidance](#) to respond to questions from Medicare & Medicaid Home Health Agencies and Religious Nonmedical Healthcare Institutions about reducing transmission of the coronavirus.
- 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 [held a webinar: *Conducting Clinical Trials During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*](#). For more information, download the [guidance](#).
- FDA [released an article: *FDA Continues to Ensure Availability of Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Addresses Safety Concerns*](#)
- FDA [released an article: *FDA Reiterates Importance of Close Patient Supervision for 'Off-Label' Use of Antimalarial Drugs to Mitigate Known Risks, Including Heart Rhythm Problems*](#)

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH [released](#) an article: *NIH clinical trial shows Remdesivir accelerates recovery from advanced COVID-19*
- NIH [released](#) an article: *NIH mobilizes national innovation initiative for COVID-19 diagnostics*
- NIH [Director's Blog](#) on "Rising to the COVID-19 Challenge: Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx)"

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

- NIAID [released](#) its strategic plan and priorities for COVID-19 research. Read the [strategic plan](#).

(Photo: NIAID)



National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

- NINR [released](#) *Preventing Infections in Multiple Healthcare Settings*, featuring research completed by nurse scientists **Elaine Larson**, PhD, RN, FAAN, **Jingjing Shang**, PhD, RN, and **Patricia Stone**, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, of Columbia University School of Nursing to provide a foundation for best practices to prevent infections in multiple clinical settings.

The **White House** [released](#) a *Testing Blueprint for Opening Up America Again*.



(Source: [Today Show via Instagram](#))

COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

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