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,
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.


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 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.
COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

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