

COVID-19 DIGEST



June 26, 2020

Academy Actions

Comments to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee in Response to "Preparing for the Next Pandemic" White Paper

Today, June 26th, the Academy submitted comments to the Senate HELP Committee with recommendations on how the country should prepare for the next pandemic. The recommendations in the letter include accelerating research, improving disease surveillance, rebuilding and maintaining state as well as federal stockpiles, improving public health capabilities, and streamlining coordination between states and the federal government. [Read more.](#)

The *Transforming Health, Driving Policy* Conference Will be Held Virtually

After careful consideration and weighing the continued impact of COVID-19 on individuals, families, and institutions, the American Academy of Nursing's Board of Directors has made the decision to hold the 2020 *Transforming Health, Driving Policy* Conference **virtually**. The health and safety of our Fellows and your respective communities is of the utmost importance. We thank you in advance for your patience and support as we move forward with the planning process. Please contact conferences@aannet.org with any additional questions.

Fellow Highlights

Cynda Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN, is a featured guest in the **American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN-Critical Care)** COVID-19 Support Podcast titled "[Moral Distress in a Crisis: What, Why, and How to Cope.](#)"

Living Legend **C. Alicia Georges**, EdD, RN, FAAN, addresses health disparities and racial injustice in the [Campaign for Action's podcast](#). "We've always talked about social injustices in nursing. Nursing has never shied away from it. The problem is our voices were not heard as loudly as I think we should've been heard, but now I think people are going to listen to us."

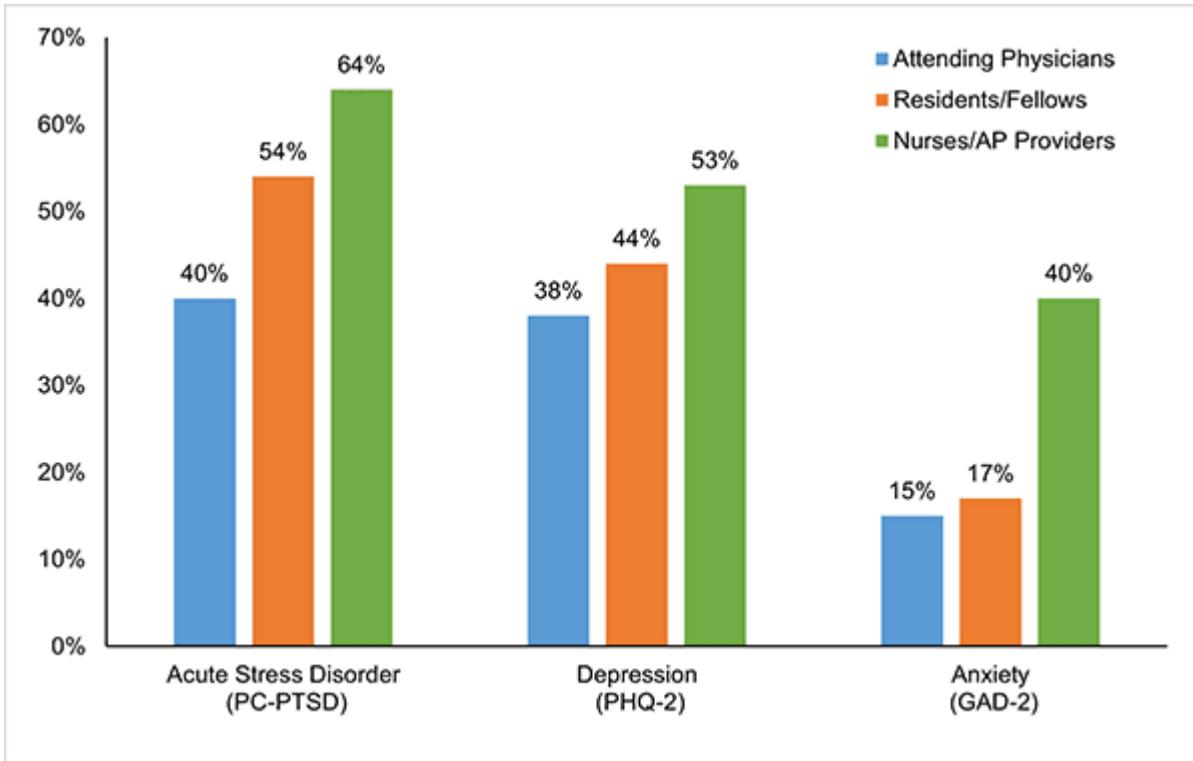
Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN, and **Patricia Stone**, PhD, MPH, RN, CIC, FAAN, [were appointed to](#) the independent **Coronavirus Commission for Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes**. The Commission will identify and communicate best practices for nursing home residents during the pandemic.

Featured Fellows



Wilhelmina M. Manzano, MA, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Executive, Chief Quality Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian and **Reynaldo R. Rivera**, DNP, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, Director of Nursing Research and Innovation, NewYork-Presbyterian, have coauthored an [article](#) with other clinicians,

"Psychological distress, coping behaviors, and preferences for support among New York healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic" in *General Hospital Psychiatry*. This timely article discusses the mental health toll COVID-19 has had on healthcare workers (HCW) by characterizing the distress, coping, and support preferences among New York City HCWs.



Notably, their research found a higher rate of reporting among nurses and advanced practice providers than attending physicians in terms of acute stress (64% vs. 40%), depressive (53% vs. 38%), and anxiety symptoms (40% vs. 15%). Their work details the preferences among HCWs for coping behaviors and concludes that organizations wanting to mitigate HCW stress should use those preferences in developing additional stress-reduction programs.

(Photo from [General Hospital Psychiatry](#))

News & Updates from Organizations

The **American Nurses Association (ANA)** published two webinars titled "[How You Can Have a Direct Impact on Reducing the Devastating Racial Disparities of COVID-19](#)" and "[COVID-19 in Non-Acute Care Settings: Hard-Earned Lessons from Two APRNs on the Frontlines](#)."

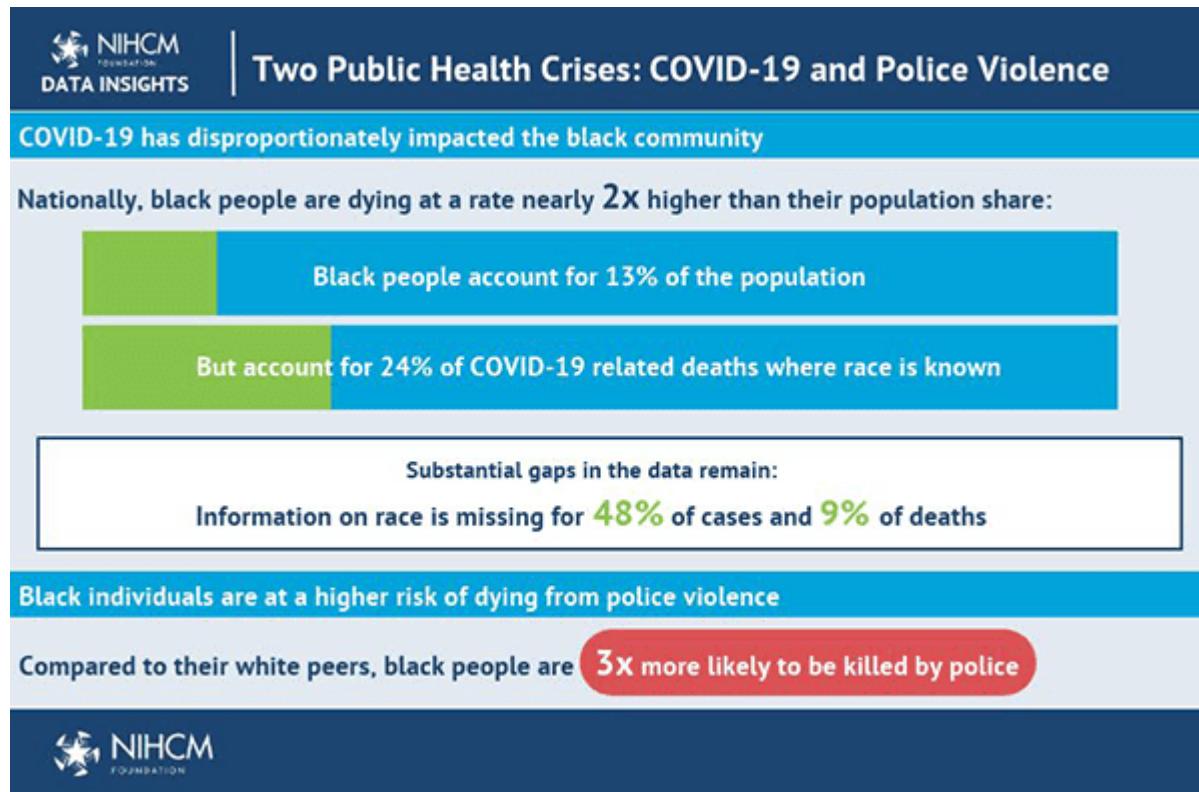
ANA and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) released another episode of its podcast series, [See You Now](#), titled "[COVID-19 The Nurse Response: Risks of Responsibility](#)".

CBS News reports "[New coronavirus cases in U.S. jump to highest level in 2 months, since peak of outbreak](#)."

The **Kaiser Health News (KHN)** published an article titled, "Seniors in Low-Income Housing Live in Fear of COVID Infection." KHN's podcast, *What the Health?*, released an episode, "The Pandemic Shifts; The Politics, Not So Much," discussing how the global pandemic has become politicized.

The **Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)** released the results of a poll highlighting that more Americans are leaving their home now than in April, despite remaining fears of the coronavirus. KFF also published a policy brief, "Health Disparities are a Symptom of Broader Social and Economic Inequities."

The **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** released a webinar: "The Road to Immunity During COVID-19 — Developing and Distributing a Vaccine." NAM released another webinar: "COVID-19 and Communities of Color: Implications for Health Literacy."



(Photo from [NIHCM](#))

The **National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) Foundation** released an article titled "Racism, Inequality, and Health." In addition, NIHCM published a webinar: "Homelessness & COVID-19: A Merger of Two Epidemics." For more information, visit their [website](#).

The **National Governors Association (NGA)**, **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**, and the **Center for Health Security** released a document titled "A National Plan to Enable Comprehensive COVID-19 Case Finding and Contact Tracing in the US." The NGA published a memo: "Child Care Reopening and Recovery."

The **New York Times (NYT)** published an article titled "Brazil Passes 1 Million Coronavirus Cases, Adding 54,000 in a Day."

Research! America will host a webinar on Monday, June 29th at 1:30 PM EST with former CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden.

Reuters published an article titled “Black Americans hospitalized for COVID-19 at four times the rate of whites, Medicare data shows.”

The **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)** [will host a webinar](#): “COVID-19: Disproportionate Impact on Navajo Nation and Tribal Communities.” Additionally, RWJF [will continue](#) its COVID-19 Response and Recovery Webinar Series with the recent webinar titled “[COVID-19: Disproportionate Impact on Black Communities.](#)”

The **Root Cause Coalition 2020** [will host](#) a virtual National Summit on the Social Determinants of Health in early October. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

The **Texas Tribune** [published an article](#) titled “Texas DACA recipients working on pandemic’s front lines await Supreme Court ruling.” The article states that “more than 4,000 DACA recipients work in health care in Texas, including many in hospitals,” so the vital work of these health care systems during the pandemic may be affected.

The **Washington Post** [published an article](#) titled “Hundreds of health care workers lost their lives battling the coronavirus. Now a series of ‘what ifs’ haunt their friends and colleagues.”

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is offering a [series of courses](#), “Responding to COVID-19: Real-time training for the coronavirus disease outbreak,” in a variety of languages.

Federal Government Response

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

- CDC Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report (MMWR) [released an article](#) titled, "Public Attitudes, Behaviors, and Beliefs Related to COVID-19, Stay-at-Home Orders, Nonessential Business Closures, and Public Health Guidance - United States, New York City, and Los Angeles, May 5-12, 2020." View additional detailed MMWR reports [here](#).
- CDC [continues to release guidance](#) on a range of issues as states reopen including "[Considerations for Election Polling Locations and Voters.](#)"
- CDC [recorded a webinar](#): “Applying COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Strategies in Nursing Homes.”
- 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) Activity

- CMS [announced](#) renewed commitment to value-based care after the release of Medicare claims data that shows older Americans and those with chronic health conditions are at the highest risk for COVID-19 and confirms long-understood disparities in health outcomes for racial and ethnic minority groups and among low-income populations.
- CMS [announced](#) Medicare Administrative Contractors and notified Medicare Advantage plans that the program will cover COVID-19 laboratory tests for nursing home residents and patients.
- CMS [published a press release](#) denouncing some nursing homes seizing their residents' economic impact payments or "stimulus checks" authorized under the CARES Act. The nursing homes doing this could be subject to federal enforcement actions, including potential termination from participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- 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 of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- The HHS Office of Minority Health (OMH) [announced](#) the selection of Morehouse School of Medicine as the awardee for a new \$40 million initiative to fight COVID-19 in racial and ethnic minority, rural and socially vulnerable communities.
- HHS [announced](#) \$107.2 million to grow and train the health workforce in rural and underserved communities.
- HHS [released a fact sheet](#) further explaining the Administration's plan for the COVID-19 vaccine: "Operation Warp Speed" (OWS).
- The HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) [issued guidance](#) on how health care providers can contact their patients who have recovered from COVID-19 to inform them about how they can donate their blood and plasma. HHS [announced](#) \$8 million to expand COVID-19 training and technical assistance for health centers.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA [will host](#) a virtual Town Hall for clinical laboratories and commercial manufacturers that are developing or have developed diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 on July 1, 2020 from 12:15 - 1:15 PM EST.
- FDA and USDA [released a joint statement](#) on food export restrictions pertaining to COVID-19. FDA [released](#) the first episode in a podcast series titled "FDA Insight: Fighting COVID-19 at the FDA."
- FDA [hosted](#) the second webinar in the series: Importing Respirators for Health Care Personnel Use during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- FDA [announced](#) its participation in the COVID-19 Diagnostics Evidence Accelerator to inform COVID-19 response efforts.
- FDA [issued](#) warning letters to companies inappropriately marketing antibody tests, potentially placing public health at risk.
- FDA [announced](#) the release of [template updates](#) regarding the validation of molecular diagnostic tests for developers that intend their assay to be used for pooling patient samples or for screening asymptomatic individuals not suspected of having COVID-19.
- FDA [revoked](#) the emergency use authorization of the Chembio Diagnostic System, Inc. DPP COVID-19 IgM / IgG System due to performance concerns with the accuracy of the test.
- FDA [announced](#) the newly discovered potential drug interaction that may reduce effectiveness of a COVID-19 treatment authorized for emergency use.
- FDA [revoked](#) the emergency use authorization for Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine when a clinical trial was unavailable, or participation in a clinical trial was not feasible.

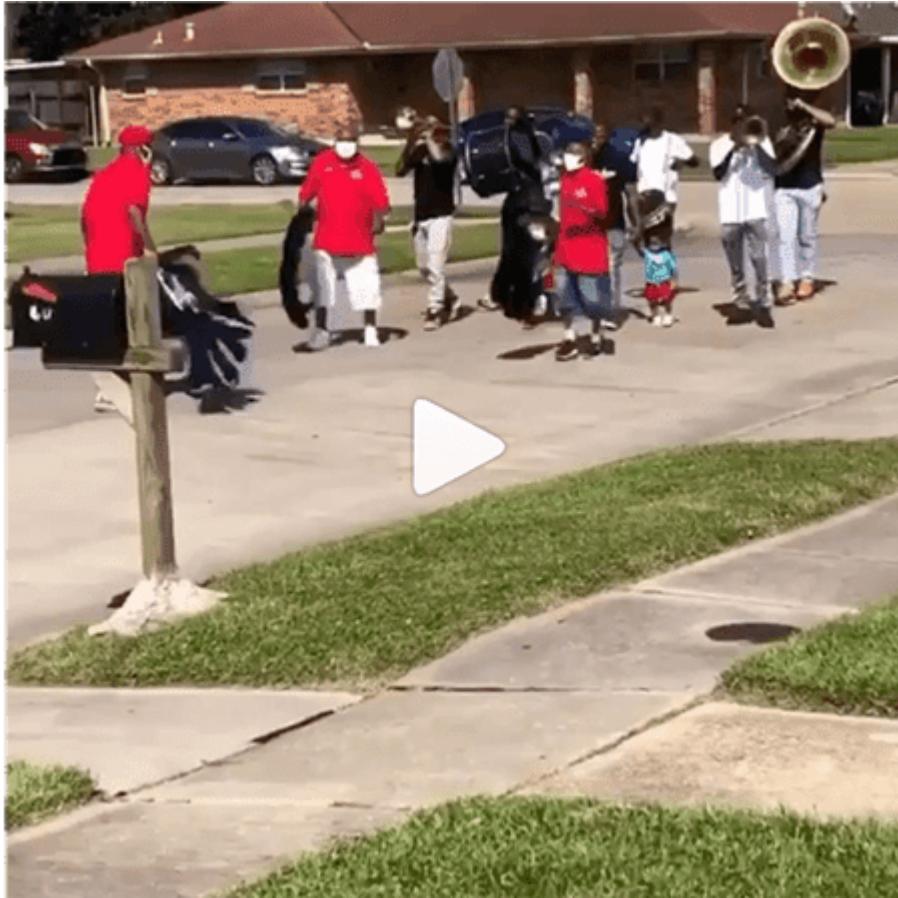
National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH [announced](#) steps to expand and improve the antibody tests in COVID-19 response.
- NIH [announced](#) that study of CD47 could lead to broad-spectrum infectious diseases immunotherapy.
- NIH [announced](#) that the clinical trial of hydroxychloroquine has been stopped, as the study drug was very unlikely to be beneficial to hospitalized patients with COVID-19.
- NIH [announced](#) the development of an analytics platform which will be used to harness nationwide COVID-19 patient data to speed treatments.
- NIH [announced a study](#) to evaluate the drugs prescribed to children with COVID-19.

National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)

- NIDA Director Nora Volkow, MD, in her blog [discussed](#) researchers adapting their projects to study COVID-19.

A New Orleans Welcome After 82 Days in Hospital



(Photo via [Instagram](#))



The logo for the American Academy of Nursing 2020 Year of the Nurse & Midwife. It features a teal watercolor-style shape containing the year "2020" in large white numbers, with "AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NURSING" above it and "YEAR OF THE NURSE & MIDWIFE" below it.

Call for Artists

Inspiring Hope through Nursing Art
In Crisis and Calm: Leading with Purpose

The Academy recently launched a Call for Artists to create a mechanism for Fellows to express themselves and their reflections through art and to support each other. Learn more and submit your artwork [here](#).

For Fellows who wish to further explore art as an outlet, **Mary Rockwood Lane**, PhD, RN, FAAN leads a free, six-week, online course, “Healing with the Arts” through the University of Florida Coursera platform. [Learn more](#).

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Policy News](#)

American Academy of Nursing
Washington, DC

info@aannet.org | www.aannet.org | 202-777-1170