

COVID-19 DIGEST



September 25, 2021

Academy Updates

July 26: The Academy, along with over 50 other professional health care organizations, **signed onto a letter to call for [required COVID-19 vaccines for all health care and long-term care workers](#)**. Because of highly contagious variants, including the Delta variant, and significant numbers of unvaccinated people, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are once again rising throughout the [United States](#) and globally. The Academy agrees vaccination is the primary way to ease the pandemic and avoid the return of stringent public health measures. [Read more](#).



AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF NURSING

OCTOBER 7-9, 2021

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Featured Fellow

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Cynda Rushton**, PhD, RN, FAAN, has [highlighted](#) the critical importance of prioritizing the mental health and well-being of nurses. The Anne and George L. Bunting Professor of Clinical Ethics for Johns Hopkins University's School of Nursing, Dr. Rushton is an expert on the ethics of care and moral resiliency. In March, Dr. Rushton [co-authored](#) "Invisible Moral Wounds of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Are We Experiencing Moral Injury?" in *AACN Advanced Critical Care*. She has also been featured in multiple articles on the topic of morality through the lens of COVID-19, including: "[On Top of Everything Else, the Pandemic Messed With Our Morals](#)," in *The Atlantic*; "[Moral Distress, Palliative Care, and the Road to](#)



[Resilience](#)" by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine; and "[Find Your Personal Top 3 Ways to Build Resilience](#)" on *Nurse.com*. As the Delta COVID-19 variant continues to spread and increases in reported cases rise, attention and resources must be brought to mental health and moral resilience, especially for nurses and healthcare providers.

Fellow Highlights

Betty Ferrell, PhD, MSN, FAAN was [featured in an article](#) titled "Moral Distress, Palliative Care, and the Road to Resilience."

Eileen T. Lake, PhD, MSN, MA, BSN, FAAN, is the lead author of the [article](#), "Hospital nurses' moral distress and mental health during COVID-19," published in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*.

Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FNAP, FAAN and **Judy E. Davidson**, DNP, RN, MCCM, FAAN [were speakers on a webinar](#) titled "Mental Health Support – How to survive the Pandemic with an Unbroken Spirit."

Monica McLemore, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN [coauthored the study](#), "The association of COVID-19 infection in pregnancy with preterm birth: A retrospective cohort study in California" in *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*.

Honorary Fellow **Polly Patricia Pittman**, PhD and **Peter Beurhaus** PhD, RN, FAAN [were featured in an article](#) titled "'Nursing Is in Crisis': Staff Shortages Put Patients at Risk."

Lisa Thomas, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN [was featured in an article](#) titled "A sense of community will help undergrads recover from COVID."

News & Updates from National Organizations

American Public Health Association (APHA) [published a statement](#) titled "CDC follows data with new guidance on masking against COVID-19."

The **Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association**, the **Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation** (HPNF), the **Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network** (SWHPN), the **Association of Professional Chaplains** (APC), and the **Oncology Nursing Society** (ONS) have developed [grief educational resources](#) for frontline providers.

International Council of Nurses (ICN) [published a press release](#) titled "ICN joins the Zambia Union of Nurses Organization in a vigil commemorating the lives of nurses and midwives who have died during the COVID-19 pandemic."

National Academy of Medicine (NAM) [published a press release](#) titled "Expert Papers from the NAM Identify Lessons Learned and Compelling Needs for Quality, Safety, and Standards Organizations and Biomedical Research after COVID-19."

The **Philippine Nurses Association of America** (PNAA) has released a [video](#), "PNAA Heal The World."

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) [published a statement](#) titled "Statement from Richard Besser, MD, on FDA Granting Full Approval to the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for Individuals Ages 16 and Older."

World Health Organization (WHO) [published a statement](#) titled "WHO Statement on advancing the next series of studies to find the origins of SARS-CoV-2."

Federal Government Response



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC [published guidance](#) titled "COVID-19 Vaccines While Pregnant or Breastfeeding"
- CDC [published updated guidance](#) titled "When You've Been Fully Vaccinated"
- CDC [published provisional data](#) titled "Overdose Deaths Accelerating During COVID-19"
- CDC [published guidance](#) titled "COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs"
- CDC [published guidance](#) titled "My Child is Showing Signs of COVID-19 at School: What Do I Do?"
- CDC [published guidance](#) titled "Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools"
- CDC [published a statement](#) titled "New CDC-Funded Pilot Program in Georgia Uses Public Art to Increase Confidence in COVID-19 Vaccination"
- CDC [published a study](#) titled "New CDC Study: Vaccination Offers Higher Protection than Previous COVID-19 Infection"
- CDC [published a statement](#) titled "CDC Issues Eviction Moratorium Order in Areas of Substantial and High Transmission"
- CDC [published a press release](#) titled "CDC Offers Health Tips for Back to School During COVID-19"



Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS [published a press release](#) titled "CMS Final Rule Improves Health Equity, Access to Treatment, Hospital Readiness, and COVID-19 Vaccination Data Reporting of Hospital Workers"
- CMS [published a statement](#) titled "People With Medicare Who Are Immunocompromised Would be Able to Receive an Additional COVID-19 Dose At No Cost"
- CMS [published a statement](#) titled "Immunocompromised Enrollees in Medicaid, CHIP, and Most Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Coverage May be Able to Receive an Additional COVID-19 Dose at No Cost"
- CMS [published a press release](#) titled "Biden-Harris Administration Takes Additional Action to Protect America's Nursing Home Residents from COVID-19"

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



- HHS [published a statement](#) titled “Biden Administration to Invest More Than \$1.6 Billion to Support COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation in Vulnerable Communities”
- HHS [published a statement](#) titled “Biden-Harris Administration Provides \$100 Million to Rural Health Clinics for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach in Their Communities to Increase Vaccinations”
- HHS [published information](#) titled “Readout of the Sixth Covid-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting”
- HHS [published a statement](#) titled “Biden-Harris Administration Provides \$121 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Support Local Community-Based Efforts to Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations in Underserved Communities”
- HHS [published a statement](#) titled “Secretary Becerra to Require COVID-19 Vaccinations for HHS Health Care Workforce”
- HHS [published a joint statement](#) titled “Joint Statement from HHS Public Health and Medical Experts on COVID-19 Booster Shots”



Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA [published a press release](#) titled “FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine,” giving formal approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

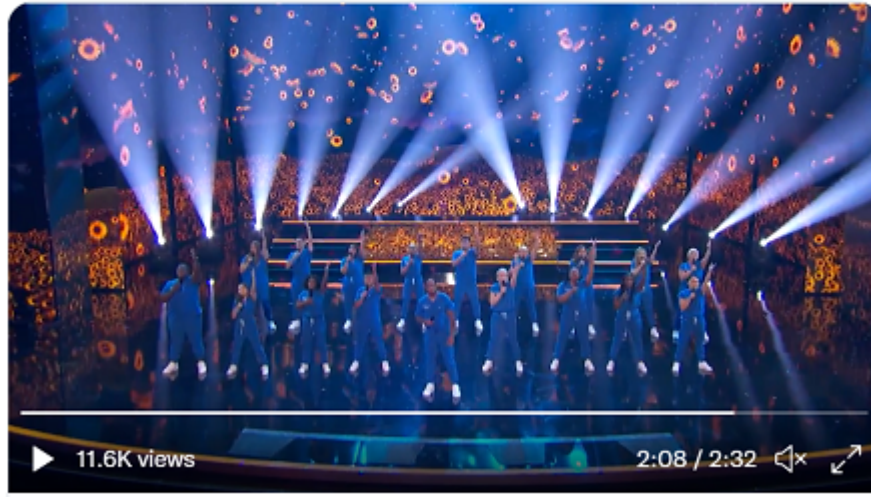
- NIH [published data](#) titled “More than 1.5 million children lost a primary or secondary caregiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic”
- NIH [published a statement](#) titled “NIH-convened expert panel proposes standardized definition of placental SARS-CoV-2 infection”
- NIH [published study](#) titled “NIH launches study of third COVID-19 vaccine dose in kidney transplant recipients”
- NIH [published a statement](#) titled “NIH scientists develop faster COVID-19 test”
- NIH [published a statement](#) titled “NIH hamster study evaluates airborne and fomite transmission of SARS-CoV-2”
- NIH [published a statement](#) titled “NIH study shows no significant benefit of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 outpatients with early symptoms”



America's Got Talent 
@AGT

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#NorthwellHealthNurseChoir is gracing the #AGT stage (and our ears) once again! ❤️



Northwell Health Nurse Choir Sings "You Will Be Found"

[Source: Twitter](#)

COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

American Academy of Nursing
Washington, DC

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