

COVID-19 DIGEST



August 28, 2020

Academy News



The Academy will be accepting nominations for the *COVID-19 Courage Award* in **Policy, Leadership, Innovation, and Science** through **September 8, 2020**. Nurses do not need to be a Fellow to be nominated! *This award was made possible through the generous support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*

[Learn more.](#)

Fellow Highlights

American Heart Association [published an article](#) titled “Researchers explore how COVID-19 affects heart health in Black women” in which **Yvonne Commodore-Mensah**, PhD, MHS, RN, FAHA, FPCNA, FAAN is quoted.

Kristine Qureshi, PhD, RN, FAAN, CEN, PHNA-BC, was a featured speaker in a **National Academy of Medicine (NAM)** webinar titled “[Nursing’s Role in Health Equity, Public Health Emergencies, and COVID-19 – Critical Issues for The Future of Nursing 2020-2030.](#)”

Stars and Stripes [published an article](#) titled “Ex-VA official: Residents of veterans homes ‘left behind’ during pandemic” where Living Legend **Linda Schwartz**, DrPH, RN, FAAN is featured.

Victoria Niederhauser, DrPH, RN, PPCNP-BC, FAAN, co-wrote an article titled “[Nursing leadership during COVID-19: Enhancing patient, family, and workforce experience](#)” published in **Patient Experience Journal (PXJ)**.

Just Released:



CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN THE UNPREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT OF A PANDEMIC



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In a time when many organizations are conducting business virtually and a large number of universities are not convening in-person, it can seem daunting to continue conducting research and operating labs, especially when the focus is on coronavirus studies. However, community engagement and public health systems provide vital resources to individuals continuing their scientific pursuits. In this panel, distinguished researchers will discuss their experiences in conducting equitable research during the pandemic and offer solutions for participants to consider within their own research.

[Learn More & Register](#)

Featured Fellow

As students begin going back to school, **Donna Hallas**, PhD, CPNP, PMHS, PPCNP-BC, FAANP, FAAN, has been [advocating](#) for safe opening practices to be implemented prior to resuming in-person classes. Dr. Hallas, who currently serves as a Clinical Professor and Program Director of the Pediatrics Nurse Practitioner program at New York University's Rory Meyers College of Nursing, recently published articles in Contemporary Pediatrics with recommendations to reopen schools and to prevent a future public health nightmare. In "[Safe return to school: A call to action](#)," Dr. Hallas and her co-authors, Regena Spratling, PhD, RN, APRN, CPNP, FAANP, Emily T. Cupelli, DNP, CPNP, BCB-PMD, argue that testing is critical for all children, who are often asymptomatic, teachers, and administrators before returning to school and that mask-wearing is necessary despite vague guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Politics should not be involved in healthcare," said Dr. Hallas. "It is really critical that we base our decisions on the evidence and, when we don't have evidence, on the common-sense practices that we've known work."



Dr. Hallas's "[Let's proactively stop another public health nightmare!](#)" in Contemporary Pediatrics further highlights the potential dangers of unsafe health practices by discussing the connection between the current pandemic and the upcoming flu season. She recommends health care providers talk with parents and children about the need to receive flu vaccinations to prevent further devastation.

In addition to her advocacy during the pandemic, Dr. Hallas has also spearheaded a [nurse practitioner preceptor grant](#) through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for the past four years to increase the number of trained nurse practitioner (NP) clinical preceptors through an innovative partnership that provides open-access to [e-learning modules](#) on a variety of pertinent topics, including telemedicine and telehealth practices.

News & Updates from National Organizations

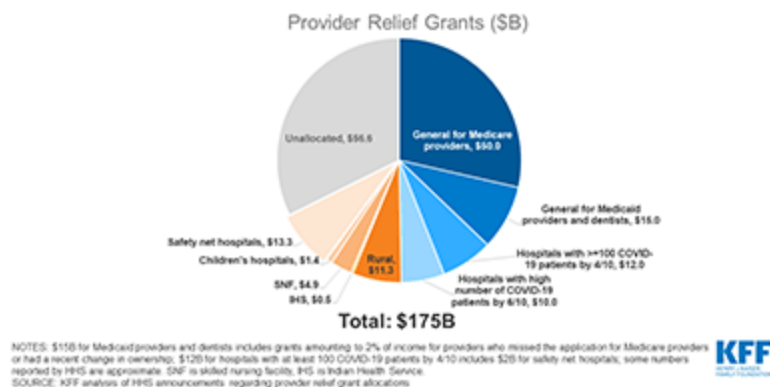
ABC News published an article titled "[The home front: Virus stalks nurses after they leave work](#)."

The Hill published an op-ed titled "[White House coronavirus task force is missing a nurse](#)" authored by former Jonas Policy Scholars, Anna Dermenchyan, MSN, RN, CCRN-K, and Kristen Choi, PhD, MS, RN.

International Council of Nurses (ICN) announced the [“State of the World’s Nursing Report – policy dialogue next steps.”](#) Read the **World Health Organization's** [State of the World’s Nursing Report](#).

Figure 1

Announced Provider Relief Allocations as of Aug. 19, 2020



Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) published a policy brief titled [“Limitations of the Program for Uninsured COVID-19 Patients Raise Concerns.”](#) KFF released an article titled [“A Review of Multiple Analyses Documents Persistent Racial Disparities in COVID-19.”](#)

Kaiser Health News (KHN) published a couple of articles: [“Another COVID Mystery: Patients Survive Ventilator, But Linger in a Coma,”](#) [“Prognosis for Rural Hospitals Worsens With Pandemic,”](#) and

[“Trump Is Sending Fast, Cheap COVID Tests to Nursing Homes — But There’s a Hitch.”](#)

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) recorded multiple webinars titled [“Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities”](#) and [“Health Care and Health Care Financing for COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities.”](#)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) published three policy briefs: [“Marketplace Pulse: The Bermuda Triangle of COVID-19 Testing,”](#) [“Making Sense of Competing Estimates: The COVID-19 Recession's Effect on Health Insurance Coverage,”](#) and [“Marketplace Pulse: The COVID Recession and Uninsurance—What’s in a Model?”](#)

World Health Organization (WHO) published two articles titled [“Immunizing the public against misinformation”](#) and [“172 countries and multiple candidate vaccines engaged in COVID-19 vaccine Global Access Facility.”](#)

Federal Government Response



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC Director, **Robert Redfield**, MD, [published an update](#) on the COVID-19 response.
- CDC [published a press release](#) titled “CDC data show disproportionate COVID-19 impact in American Indian/Alaska Native populations.” [Read the study.](#)
- CDC [recorded a webinar](#) titled “2020-2021 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Clinical Guidance During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”
- CDC updated its [isolation guidance](#) based on the latest science about COVID-19 showing that people can continue to test positive for up to 3 months after diagnosis and not be infectious to others.
- CDC [continues to release guidance](#) on a range of issues as states reopen including [“Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)”](#) and [“Using Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\).”](#)
- 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)

- CMS [released guidance](#) for nursing homes and clinical laboratories to assist in enhancing their abilities to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to nursing home residents and their front line staff.
- CMS [released](#) an additional list of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) for Medicare providers regarding the Department of Health & Human Services’

(HHS) Provider Relief Fund and the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program payments, also referred to as COVID-19 relief payments.

- CMS [announced](#) sweeping regulatory changes that require nursing homes to test staff and offer testing to residents for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- CMS [implemented](#) an unprecedented national nursing home training program for frontline nursing home staff and nursing home management. The training is designed to equip both frontline caregivers and their management with the knowledge they need to stop the spread of COVID-19 in their nursing homes.
- CMS [released](#) a [Medicaid Informational Bulletin \(CIB\)](#) that provides guidance to states on flexibilities that are available to increase reimbursement for nursing facilities that implement specific infection control practices, such as designating a quarantine or isolation wing for COVID-19 patients.
- CMS issued guidance: "[Key Components for Continued COVID-19 Management for Dialysis Facilities.](#)"
- CMS [announced](#) it will resume routine inspections of all Medicare and Medicaid certified providers and suppliers to improve the safety and quality of life of patients and residents after rerouting resources to combat the novel coronavirus.
- CMS [announced](#) that the agency has imposed more than \$15 million in civil money penalties (CMPs) to more than 3,400 nursing homes during the public health emergency for noncompliance with infection control requirements and the failure to report COVID-19 data.
- 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 for Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS [announced](#) the release of 1.5 million N95 respirators from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for distribution to approximately 3,336 nursing home facilities across the United States.
- HHS [issued](#) amended guidance on how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule permits covered health care providers (e.g., hospitals, pharmacies, laboratories) and health plans to contact their patients and beneficiaries who have recovered from COVID-19 to inform them about how they can donate their plasma containing antibodies (known as "convalescent plasma") to help treat others with COVID-19.
- HHS [announced](#) the usage of the Defense Production Act (DPA) to apply priority rated orders for contracts with Becton Dickinson (BD) and Quidel Corporation through September. These acquisitions will fulfill a large-volume purchase of diagnostic systems and assays for COVID-19 testing and will expedite shipments of these systems and assays to every nursing home certified by CMS with a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver.
- HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) [announced](#) it has reached an early case resolution with the state of Utah after it revised its crisis standards of care ("CSC") guidelines to ensure that such criteria do not discriminate against persons on the basis of age and disability.
- Assistant Secretary for Health, Admiral Brett P. Giroir, MD, [issued a statement](#) on FDA EUA for LumiraDx UK Ltd.'s - LumiraDx SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Test.
- HHS [issued](#) a third [amendment](#) to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to increase access to lifesaving childhood vaccines and decrease the risk of vaccine-

preventable disease outbreaks as children across the United States return to daycare, preschool and school.

- HHS and Department of Defense (DoD) [announced](#) that McKesson Corporation will be a central distributor of future COVID-19 vaccines and related supplies needed to administer the pandemic vaccinations.
- HHS [announced](#) an additional \$1.4 billion in targeted distribution funding to almost 80 free-standing children's hospitals nationwide.
- Admiral Brett P. Giroir, MD, [released a statement](#) on COVID-19 Point-of-Care Testing Effort in Miami. He also [urged](#) healthcare providers and parents to "catch-up to get ahead" on childhood immunizations.
- HHS [announced](#) combined investments of \$6.5 million in two commercial diagnostic laboratories to expand capacity to conduct up to 4 million additional SARS-CoV-2 tests per month.



Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- FDA [issued](#) an emergency use authorization for the first antigen test where results can be read directly from the testing card, a similar design to some pregnancy tests.
- FDA [released](#) the tenth episode of its podcast titled "FDA Insight: Drug Shortages and COVID-19."
- FDA [issued](#) an emergency use authorization (EUA) for investigational convalescent plasma for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to fight COVID-19.
- FDA [released](#) the ninth episode of its podcast titled "FDA Insight: Health Fraud and COVID-19."
- FDA [issued](#) an emergency use authorization (EUA) to Yale School of Public Health for its SalivaDirect COVID-19 diagnostic test, which uses a new method of processing saliva samples when testing for COVID-19 infection.



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID)

- NIAID [announced](#) that it has awarded 11 grants with a total first-year value of approximately \$17 million to establish the Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID).



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- SAMHSA [issued a statement](#) regarding CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on mental health, substance use, and suicidal ideation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Angel Wings



(Source: [ICN](#))



Call for Artists

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

The Academy will be accepting art submissions from Fellows through **September 1, 2020**. Learn more and submit your artwork [here](#).

[COVID-19 Resources](#)

[Policy News](#)

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