March 30: The Academy, along with other health care organizations, sent a letter to House and Senate Appropriations Committee leaders urging them to increase funding to the CDC and NIH for firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research to a total of $50 million as part of Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations. Read the House / Senate letters.

March 31: The Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS), a signature initiative of the Academy, submitted recommendations and comments to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding its Strategic Plan for the fiscal years of 2021 to 2025. The Academy and CANS applauded the broad, cross-cutting themes included in the plan while highlighting the need for eliminating health disparities, and maternal mortality in particular. Read more.

April 3: The Academy submitted comments to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology regarding the Department of Health and Human Services' 2020-2025 Federal Health IT Strategic Plan. Read more.

April 9: The Academy signed on to an amicus brief to the Supreme Court along with the American Nurses Association, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, and other health care organizations stating our support for the contraception mandate in the Affordable Care Act. Read more.

April 10: The Academy signed on to an amicus brief to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals along with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Medical Association, and other health care organizations challenging the state of Oklahoma's efforts to ban abortions during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more. The Academy also
signed on to an amicus brief to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on April 2 challenging similar efforts in the state of Texas. Read more.

### National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)

- **Proceedings: Exploring the Current Landscape of Consumer Genomics**
  - From the Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health hosted in October 2019, these proceedings explore topics such as the diversity of participant populations, the impact of consumer genomics on health literacy, knowledge gaps regarding the use of consumer genomics in clinical care, and policy issues such as data privacy and security.

- **Proceedings: Key Policy Challenges and Opportunities to Improve Care for People with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders**
  - Behavioral health and substance use disorders (SUD) affect nearly 20% of the US population and approximately 60% of those with a SUD also have a mental health disorder. These proceedings are from a NASEM Health and Medicine division forum hosted in October 2019 to explore policy challenges that impede efforts to improve care for this population.

### Kaiser Family Foundation

- **New Interactive Resource: State Action to Limit Abortion Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic**
  - In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, some states have moved to classify abortion as a non-essential or elective health procedure, effectively banning abortions until the end of the emergency. This resource shows how each state has responded.

### Administration Activities

**From the President's Desk**

**Coronavirus Task Force: 30 Days to Slow the Spread**

- Additional information is also available at coronavirus.gov.
Around the Administration

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Please continue to check the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) for day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the US.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

- NIDA observed National Drug and Alcohol Facts week from March 30th to April 5th. [Here](https://www.drugabuse.gov) is a blog post that lists highlights from the week.

From the Federal Register

Notice of Enforcement Discretion

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** [Enforcement Discretion Under HIPAA To Allow Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information by Business Associates for Public Health and Health Oversight Activities in Response to COVID-19](https://www.hhs.gov)
  - HHS is exercising its discretion in how it applies the Privacy Rule under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Current regulations allow a HIPAA business associate to use and disclose protected health information for public health and health oversight purposes only if expressly permitted by its business associate agreement with a HIPAA covered entity. As a matter of enforcement discretion, effective immediately, the HHS Office for Civil Rights (OCR) will exercise its enforcement discretion and will not impose potential penalties for violations of certain provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule against covered health care providers or their business associates for uses and disclosures of protected health information by business associates for public health and health oversight activities.

Congressional Hearings

*Based on previous positions taken by the Academy, the following scan is meant for informational purposes and does not directly translate to Academy endorsement. Links provided allow you to watch the recordings and read witness testimony.*

House Oversight & Reform

Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation

- April 9: Enlisting Big Data in the Fight Against Coronavirus

COVID-19 Resources

Policy News

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