December 14: The Academy sent a letter to President-Election Joe Biden, Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris, and their Administration outlining ways in which the Academy can assist the Administration on a number of health care issues including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, gun violence, etc. Read more.

December 9: The Academy, along with other health care organizations, signed on to an amicus brief supporting New York state’s challenge to the Trump Administration withdrawing certain nondiscrimination protections in health care from LGBTQ people. Read more.

December 2: The Academy signed onto a letter urging Members of Congress on the House Appropriations Committee to fund the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Office on Smoking and Health at the House-passed funding level of $240 million. Read more.

DISTINGUISHED NURSE SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 5, 2021

JONAS POLICY SCHOLARS
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
Mentoring. Policy. Engagement.
APPLICATIONS DUE JANUARY 4, 2021
The National Center for Complex Health & Social Needs

- Request for Proposals: Community Ecosystems Learning Collaborative
  The National Center, an initiative of the Camden Coalition, will be convening an action-oriented learning collaborative with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Collaborative will support organizations as they develop and strengthen “ecosystem” approaches to addressing the root causes of individuals’ and populations’ complex health and social needs. At least five selected communities will receive 15 months of individualized technical assistance from National Center staff and participate in a learning collaborative consisting of all of the teams. Application Deadline: Friday, January 15, 2021.

Nurses on Boards Coalition

- Be Counted: The Nurses on Boards Coalition is currently working to ensure that at least 10,000 nurses are on boards by the end of 2020. All boards benefit from the unique perspective of nurses to achieve the goals of improved health and efficient and effective health care systems at the local, state and national levels. The current number is 9,376 nurses on Boards. Only 624 more seats to be counted. Log your Board engagement today.

National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- Commentary: Maternal Mental Health: Where Should Our Research and Policy Priorities Be?
  In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health care has become an increasingly important topic in light of the cumulative stressors of social isolation, economic insecurity, anxiety and fears of infection, financial hardship, and the potential loss of friends or family. Evidence suggests that mental health disorders, including major depression disorder (MDD) and anxiety disorders, are increasing at an alarming rate in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic, and access to mental health care remains limited. During this critical time, maternal mental health deserves special attention by researchers and policy makers for several reasons, but particularly because of growing evidence that maternal mental health has long-reaching effects on the physical, intellectual, and emotional development of a woman’s children.

- Discussion Paper: Advancing Artificial Intelligence in Health Settings Outside the Hospital and Clinic
  The health care ecosystem is witnessing a surge of artificial intelligence (AI)-driven technologies and products that can potentially augment care delivery outside of hospital and clinic settings. These tools can be used to conduct remote monitoring, support telehealth visits, or target high-risk populations for more intensive health care interventions.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM)

- Consensus Study Report: Rapid Expert Consultation on Understanding Causes of Health Care Worker Deaths Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
  The COVID-19 pandemic has created both acute and chronic stresses on the health care system and on health care personnel nationwide. At present, the nation lacks a uniform system to collect, collate, and
report illnesses and deaths among health care workers due to COVID-19, and only a few studies report efforts to improve the health and well-being of health care workers. At the request of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, this rapid expert consultation reviews current resources and methods for tracking and evaluating health care worker deaths related to COVID-19 in the health care setting. It also examines some ways to support health care worker well-being and safety during the pandemic.

Federal Register

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- *Proposed Rule:* [Securing Updated and Necessary Statutory Evaluations Timely](#)
  The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) requires agencies to publish plans to conduct periodic reviews of certain of their regulations. Multiple Executive Orders also require agencies to submit plans for periodic reviews of certain regulations. To further comply with the RFA and Executive Orders, and to ensure the Department's regulations have appropriate impacts, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issues this notice of proposed rulemaking to set expiration dates for its regulations (subject to certain exceptions), unless the Department periodically assesses the regulations to determine if they are subject to the RFA, and if they are, performs a review that satisfies the criteria in the RFA.

Around the Administration

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The CDC released [updated quarantine guidelines](#) that the time period for quarantine can go down to 10 days from 14 days.
- Please continue to check the [website](#) created by the CDC to provide day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

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 Committee on Oversight and Reform

- December 17: [The Role of Purdue Pharma and the Sackler Family in the Opioid Epidemic](#)
Senate Committee on Finance

- December 16: The Alzheimer's Crisis: Examining Testing and Treatment Pipelines and Fiscal Implications

Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs

- December 9: VA's Response to COVID-19 across the VA Enterprise

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