June 26: The Academy sent comments to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee with recommendations on how the country should prepare for the next pandemic. Some of the recommendations in the letter included accelerating research, improving disease surveillance, rebuilding and maintaining state and federal stockpiles, improving public health capabilities, and streamlining coordination between states and the federal government. These comments were developed through the support of the following Expert Panels (EPs): Acute & Critical Care, Bioethics, Breastfeeding, Building Health Care System Excellence, Child, Adolescent & Family, Emerging Infectious Disease, Environment & Public Health, Nursing Theory, Psychiatric, Mental Health & Substance Use, and Quality Health Care Expert. Read more.

July 6: The Academy discussed recommendations regarding policy solutions that make meaningful improvements to the detection, education, treatment, and support for patients and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias with the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health. Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx and Aging EP Chair Pam Cacchione participated in the call. Read More about the Academy’s Recommendations.

July 8: The Academy released a statement that the United States must remain a member of the World Health Organization. Read more.

Nursing Now

- **Webinar: Discussing Racism: Nurses as activists for equality**
  This webinar will feature a panel of experts including: Dr. Ernest Grant, President, American Nurses Association; Carol Cooper, Head of Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights, Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust; Juliana Cristina dos Santos Monterio, Associate Professor, Ribeirão Preto School of Nursing, University of São Paulo. Register here.
National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- **Webinar Series:** [Supporting People with Addiction During COVID-19](#)
  A new webinar series from the NAM and the American Society of Addiction Medicine will provide insight and targeted guidance on how to ensure that these individuals are cared for and protected during this ongoing public health crisis.

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

- **NINR Selects New Director**
  Shannon Zenk, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, has been selected as Director of NINR, with an expected start in early fall. Dr. Zenk currently serves as Nursing Collegiate Professor, Department of Population Health Nursing Science, University of Illinois Chicago College of Nursing. The Academy looks forward to collaborating with Dr. Zenk to advance the impact nursing science has on the public's health and well-being.

- **Director’s Message:** [A Message on Racism and Diversity](#)
  An update from NINR Acting Director Tara Schwetz regarding the Institute’s plan to advance health equity and diversity in the nursing science community.

- **Submit Your Feedback:** [Tell Us What Nursing Research Means to You](#)
  NINR would like help in capturing what nursing research means to those who live it. They are gathering this information to learn more from our community and collectively begin describing the next frontiers in nursing science. Responses will be collected until August 31, 2020.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- **New Pregnancy Toolkit:** [New tools to help ensure a positive pregnancy experience for women](#)
  WHO has now released the Antenatal care recommendations adaptation toolkit, in collaboration with Ministries of Health, WHO Regional and Country offices, implementation experts and country stakeholders. The toolkit sets out practical steps for governments wishing to introduce WHO recommendations at national and subnational level.

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**ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES**

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**Federal Register**

**Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)**

- **Executive Order:** [Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda](#)
  This executive order will create the Office of Burden Reduction and Health Informatics within CMS. The new office is an outgrowth of the agency’s Patients over Paperwork Initiative, which is the cornerstone of CMS’s ongoing efforts to implement President Trump's [2017 executive order to “Cut the Red Tape”](#) and eliminate duplicative, unnecessary, and excessively costly requirements and regulations.

**Around the Administration**
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- Please continue to check the website created by the CDC to provide day-to-day updates on the coronavirus pandemic in the United States.

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**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 Education & Labor Committee**


**House Energy & Commerce Committee**

- June 23: [Oversight of the Trump Administration’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- June 30: [High Anxiety and Stress: Legislation to Improve Mental Health During Crisis](#)
- July 8: [Addressing the Urgent Needs of Our Tribal Communities](#)

**House Science, Space & Technology Committee**

- June 19: [Repurposing Therapeutic Drugs for COVID-19: Research Challenges and Opportunities](#)
- June 26: [R&D to Support Healthy Air Travel in the COVID-19 Era and Beyond](#)

**House Veterans’ Affairs Committee**

- June 23: [VA Telehealth During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Expansion and Impact](#)
- July 1: [Veterans’ Access to Reproductive Health Care](#)
- July 8: [Stuck in Red Tape: How VA’s Regulatory Policies Prevent Bad Paper Veterans from Accessing Critical Benefits](#)

**House Ways & Means Committee**

- June 23: [The Child Care Crisis and the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)
- June 25: [Examining the COVID-19 Nursing Home Crisis](#)

**Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee**

- June 23: [COVID-19: Lessons Learned to Prepare for the Next Pandemic](#)
- June 30: [COVID-19: Update on Progress Toward Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School](#)

**Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee**

- July 1: [Recruitment, Retention and Building a Resilient Veterans Health Care Workforce](#)