Dear Fellows,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Academy staff, I want to express our sincerest compassion and support to all of you who are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of patients is rapidly increasing and the spread of the virus continues to disrupt all aspects of our lives. Please know that we are supporting you through interviews, communications, and meetings with the nation’s top policy makers.

As countries around the globe continue to navigate the rapidly changing situation, the Academy is including a special section of Academy Insider on the activities of the federal government and the Academy. Further information is being provided on the Academy’s website through a resource page.

As our healthcare professionals are demonstrating courage in light of the grave impact this virus is having, we continue to be inspired by their heroic work. The Academy is continuing to recommend further support for all providers in this trying time. The Academy is also working to educate the public on the importance of social distancing as well as dispelling rumors and misconceptions about the coronavirus in order to further support the public’s health and safety.

The Academy takes the wellness of all our Fellows, here and around the globe, seriously. Please know you are in our thoughts and we are here to support you throughout this crisis.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Sullivan-Marx, PhD, RN, FAAN
Academy President
@EileenSullivanM
COVID-19: The Academy's Response

- **March 19:** Academy President Eileen Sullivan-Marx's interview on CNN discusses the need to ramp up the response to the coronavirus, emphasizing the demand for the right equipment and protecting vulnerable populations living in crowded spaces.

- **March 18:** At a White House Briefing on the coronavirus, Academy leadership joined other national nursing organizations to discuss pressing issues related to the pandemic’s deepening impact on the public’s health and the nursing profession’s ability to provide care. Academy CEO, Suzanne Miyamoto, PhD, RN, FAAN emphasized the importance of protecting the most vulnerable populations, supporting nurses on the frontlines, and increasing access, scale, speed, and accuracy of testing. Read more.

- **March 17:** President Sullivan-Marx's interview on Yahoo Finance, discussing the need to increase testing and warning of the burdens that may be placed on our hospital systems.

- **March 10:** The American Academy of Nursing Calls for Caution and Care as the Coronavirus Continues to Spread. Academy recommends special attention be paid to those most vulnerable to COVID-19 including older adults and the immunodeficient.

- **March 5:** FAAN Mail's message from President Sullivan-Marx outlining the Academy's focus at the policy level and how the expertise of our Fellows will be of assistance as further information unfolds.

- **February 28:** The Academy, along with other health organizations, signed onto a letter to Members of Congress expressing concern for the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) public health emergency. The letter also urged congressional appropriators to act swiftly and decisively to provide robust support for key domestic public health and healthcare programs, medical countermeasure development, global preparedness programs and response mechanisms, and international partnerships, in order to mitigate the impacts of the virus. Read more.

### COVID-19: Federal Government Response

- **March 19, 5:00 PM ET: CMS COVID-19 Call with Nurses**
  Tonight, CMS leadership will discuss 1135 waivers, the agency's latest telehealth guidance, surveys, and other important updates impacting the nursing community. The call will also be recorded.
  - Call-in Number: 888-950-5925; Participant Passcode: 2296589

- **March 14-19:** **HR 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act**
  HR 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, is a bipartisan agreement between House Democrats and the Trump administration. This bill responds to the coronavirus outbreak by providing paid sick leave and free coronavirus testing, expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits, and requiring employers to provide additional protections for health care workers.
The Families First Coronavirus Response Act passed the House of Representatives 363-40 on Saturday, March 14th and the Senate 90-8 on March 18th. The President signed the bill into law this morning.

- **March 18: President Invokes Defense Production Act**
The President invoked the Defense Production Act (DPA), a wartime authority that allows him to direct industry to produce critical equipment during a time of war. The DPA allows the administration to direct American industry to manufacture medical supplies that are in short supply in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

- **March 18: CMS Issues New Guidelines on Non-Essential Procedures**
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that all elective surgeries, non-essential medical, surgical, and dental procedures be delayed during the coronavirus outbreak.

- **March 16: President Issues Coronavirus Guidelines**
President Trump released guidelines in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, including advising older people and those with underlying health conditions to stay home and limiting social gatherings in groups to no more than 10 people.

- **March 16: FDA Issues Diagnostic Emergency Use Authorization to Hologic and LabCorp**
The FDA took two additional significant diagnostic actions during the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) by issuing Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) to: Hologic for its Panther Fusion SARS-COV-2 Assay, and Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) for its COVID-19 RT-PCR test.

- **March 16: FDA Provides More Regulatory Relief During Outbreak, Continues to Help Expedite Availability of Diagnostics**
The FDA updated a policy originally issued on Feb. 29 on diagnostic testing for coronavirus (COVID-19) in order to achieve more rapid testing capacity in the U.S.

- **March 13: President Declares National Emergency**
President Trump declared a national emergency to contain COVID-19. The National Emergencies Act was enacted in 1976 to set guidelines on the emergency powers of the president. It is usually used in times of war, natural disaster, medical pandemic/epidemic, or civil unrest. The President also used the powers of the Stafford Act (signed into law in 1988) to direct $50 billion in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief funds to fight the pandemic. Many states are also declaring emergencies and instituting restrictions in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19.

- **March 13: FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization to Thermo Fisher**
The FDA took another significant diagnostic action during the coronavirus outbreak by issuing the fourth COVID-19 diagnostic Emergency Use Authorization to Thermo Fisher for its TaqPath COVID-19 Combo Kit.

- **March 12: FDA gives flexibility to New York State Department of Health, FDA issues Emergency Use Authorization diagnostic**
March 6: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Telehealth Update

Beginning on March 6th, Medicare, administered by CMS, will temporarily pay clinicians to provide telehealth services for beneficiaries residing across the entire country. CMS is expanding this benefit on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act. The benefits are part of the broader effort by CMS and the White House Task Force to ensure that all Americans – particularly those at high-risk of complications from the virus that causes the disease COVID-19 – are aware of easy-to-use, accessible benefits that can help keep them healthy while helping to contain the spread of this virus. Prior to this waiver Medicare could only pay for telehealth on a limited basis: when the person receiving the service is in a designated rural area and when they leave their home and go to a clinic, hospital, or certain other types of medical facilities for the service.

ACADEMY IN ACTION

- **February 28**: The Academy signed onto a letter with our colleagues in the Nursing Community Coalition urging Members of Congress to consider and advance S. 997, the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2019. This legislation recognizes the nurses who served as members of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II and provides them with honorable discharges, medal privileges, and burial benefits for cemeteries administered under the Department of Veterans Affairs. Read more.

- **March 9**: The Academy, along with other public health organizations, signed onto letters to Members of the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Subcommittee requesting increased funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) by $80 million, for a total of $310 million. Read the House/Senate letter.

- **March 13**: The Academy sent a letter to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in response to a request for comments on guidance for regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) applications for executive departments and agencies. Read more.

- **March 13**: Academy letter to the Senate Finance Health Subcommittee with input and 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. Read more.

FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES

*March 30th Deadline: 2020 FNINR Award Nominations Now Open*
The Friends of the National Institute of Nursing Research is now accepting nominations for each of their five awards, to be presented at the October 28, 2020 NightinGala.

**Rolling Application Deadline: Yale School of Nursing: Candidate School for Nurses and Midwives**

- May 27-30: The first candidate school for nurses and midwives seeks to inspire nurses to run for elected office, provide training and support to those running, and promote a culture within nursing of supporting colleagues who enter politics. The non-partisan school is limited to 50 participants.

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**National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine**

- **Special Publication:** Artificial Intelligence in Health Care: The Hope, the Hype, the Promise, the Peril
  - This publication looks at the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) in health care as it offers unprecedented opportunities to improve patient and clinical team outcomes, reduce costs, and impact population health.

- **Report:** Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults
  - A new report finds seniors who are experiencing social isolation or loneliness may face a higher risk of mortality, heart disease, and depression. Despite the profound health consequences — and the associated costs — this report also finds the health care system remains an underused partner in preventing, identifying, and intervening for social isolation and loneliness among adults over age 50.

- **Workshop Proceedings:** Exploring the Current Landscape of Consumer Genomics
  - Consumer genomics has evolved considerably over the past decade, moving from more personal utility-focused applications to interfacing with clinical care in nontraditional ways. The Roundtable on Genomics and Precision Health hosted a public workshop in October 2019 to explore the current landscape of and implications for consumer genetics and genetic test information.
  - An additional report, published by the JAMA Network, further discusses how genomic testing is evolving in 2020.

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**From the President's Desk**

- **Coronavirus Task Force: 15 Days to Slow the Spread**
On March 16, the President released guidance for the next 15 days to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Additional information is also available at coronavirus.gov.

Around the Administration

Health and Human Services (HHS)

- **February 21**: HHS released a strategy to improve care for patients by reducing clinician burdens.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The CDC has created a website for healthcare professionals to refer to on how to care for COVID-19 patients.

From the Federal Register

Final Rule

- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA): Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements**
  - The FDA issued a rule that requires cigarette makers to put graphic labels with realistic images on at least 50% of the front and back of packages and 20% of the top of advertisements. This rule will go into effect on June 18, 2021. According to the FDA, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the U.S. It causes 480,000 deaths and nearly $300 billion in health care and lost productivity costs each year.

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**

- March 11: The Healthy Families Act (H.R. 1784): Examining a Plan to Secure Paid Sick Leave for U.S. Workers

**House Energy & Commerce**

- February 26: The Fiscal Year 2021 HHS Budget and Oversight of the Coronavirus Outbreak
- March 3: Combating an Epidemic: Legislation to Help Patients with Substance Use Disorders

House Oversight & Reform

- February 27: Karshi-Khanabad: Hazardous Exposures and Effects on U.S. Servicemembers
- March 10: U.S. Biodefense and Response to the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak
- March 11: Coronavirus Preparedness and Response

House Ways & Means

- February 27: Proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget with Health and Human Services Secretary Azar
- March 11: Combatting Child Poverty in America

Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation

- February 24: Securing U.S. Leadership in the Bioeconomy
- March 4: From SARS to Coronavirus: Examining the Role of Global Aviation in Containing the Spread of Infectious Disease

Message not displaying correctly? View it online here.