Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News

SPECIAL EDITION

March 31, 2020

The AFPHS Network News will continue to focus on providing news and resources regarding the COVID-19 crisis. Many thanks to those of you on the front lines of the response to this outbreak. New items since the previous edition are in *italics*.

TFAH’s [COVID-19 Resources Portal](https://www.tfah.org/coronavirus) provides news and links to key articles and interviews. *(New items added daily.)*

**Events and Opportunities**

- Last week, the American Public Health Association (APHA) *hosted a webinar* featuring Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, entitled *The Science of Social Distancing: Part I*. A recording, transcript, and the presenters slides are all available [here](https://www.tfah.org/coronavirus). Join APHA **tomorrow, April 1** at 5:00 p.m. (ET) for **Part II** in the series, which will discuss benefit-risk analysis of social/physical distancing strategies, including for vulnerable populations; examine strategies for mitigating mental health impacts; and explore what science is available to guide eventual relaxation of measures.

**COVID-19 Federal Government Resources**

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**: CDC’s [COVID-19 site](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) provides comprehensive updates and guidance for various professions and populations. CDC’s [guidance for older adults](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/health-care-professionals/long-term-care-guidance.html) also includes information related to long term care facilities.
  - Guidance for Retirement Communities and Independent Living
  - Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities (Interim Guidance)

- **Administration for Community Living and National Center for Law and Elder Rights**: [Legal Assistance for Older Americans & COVID-19](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/actnow/coronavirus) provides guidance for legal assistance programs to use while adjusting policies and procedures to ensure the safety
of their staff and their older adult clients. This document adds to the other FAQs and new resources that ACL has published for the aging and disability networks.

- **HHS Partnership Center**: To support your leadership and your efforts, the Partnership Center created the COVID-19 Recommended Preventive Practices and FAQs for Faith-based and Community Leaders.

**COVID-19 Organizational Resources**

- **AARP**: Facts and information on COVID-19.  
  *Attend to mental health during COVID-19*

- **ADvancing States (Home and Community Based Services)**: State-by-state listing of resources on COVID-19.

- **Alzheimer’s Association**: Tips for caregivers of individuals with dementia during COVID-19.

- **American Geriatrics Society**: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Information for Internists

- **American Health Care Association**: Provides information for long-term care and post-acute care facilities.

- **American Public Health Association**: APHA’s COVID-19 page for public health professionals links to APHA resources as well as those from CDC and WHO. In addition, APHA provides a “Get Ready” page for the general public that links to coronavirus fact sheets in multiple languages.

- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials**: COVID-19 resource hub, including pandemic response materials. ASTHO’s press statement. See ASTHO’s new crisis communication guide for concise, easily digestible answers to 45 pressing COVID-19 questions.

- **Eldercare Locator**: Offers information for older adults on community based services.

- **Institute for Healthcare Improvement**: Statement and Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- **The John A. Hartford Foundation**: Provides resources for older adults, family caregivers, and healthcare professionals on its COVID-19 Resources page.

- **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**: Public Health on Call daily podcasts, many with public health experts on COVID-19, including how nursing facilities should be responding and ethical dilemmas with the outbreak.
• **LeadingAge**: Provides [COVID-19 guidance](#) for senior living communities.

• **National Asian Pacific Center on Aging**: Provides [COVID-19 information in multiple languages](#).

• **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)**: Provides a [compilation of resources](#) for Area Agencies on Aging and others COVID-19, including a link to a webinar on what the Aging Network is doing.

• **National Association of County and City Health Officials COVID-19 resources**, including materials from the NACCHO toolbox.

• **National Council on Aging**: [What older adults need to know about COVID-19](#).

• **National Indian Council on Aging**: Provides COVID-19 resources focused on [tribal communities’ needs and challenges](#).

**COVID-19 Articles and Issue-Specific Information**

• **COVID-19 Testing**
  
  o [Saving COVID-19 Testing for Those Who Really Need It](#)

• **Mental Health for Older Adults during COVID-19**
  
  o **Diverse Elders Coalition**: [COVID-19: We must care for older adults’ mental health](#).
  
  o **Florida Department of Elder Affairs**: Caring for older adults with dementia during COVID-19.

• **Public Health and Healthcare Workers**
  
  o [Coronavirus Responders Deserve Better](#)

  o **Journal of Public Health Management and Practice**: Compilation of [resources for public health information and response](#), including posts and podcasts from public health epidemiologists, experts in public health department management and practice, healthcare professionals, state and local public health leaders, and more.

• **Social Isolation and Loneliness During COVID-19**
  
  o **Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness**: Publishes a [resource page](#) on the physical, behavioral, and mental health effects of social distancing and how to stay connected with others while intentionally isolating oneself.