

THIS WEEK IN CAREGIVING



February 11, 2021



CAREGIVING IN THE NEWS

Massachusetts to Allow Those Accompanying 75 and Older Residents to Receive Vaccine

"Effective Thursday at mass vaccination sites, anyone accompanying a person age 75 or older to get the vaccine may schedule their own appointment to be vaccinated on the same day.

Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders said the new accommodation for trusted family, friends, neighbors or caregivers to get vaccinated along with vulnerable seniors came after consultation with councils on aging and other advocated for older adults.

While all the mass vaccination sites are handicap accessible, sites like Gillette Stadium or Fenway Park can be unfamiliar and intimidating to some, and allowing trusted companions to also get vaccinated is an effort to encourage more seniors to seek the inoculation."

From: NBC Boston | February 11, 2021

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A Day in the Life of Osteoarthritis Pain

"The effects of OA can reach far beyond those who are diagnosed with this debilitating condition. In fact, OA can place a substantial burden not just on patients, but also on those who care for them and society as a whole. For example, family caregivers of those living with OA may struggle with the physical and emotional work of caring for their loved one, as well as changes in reciprocal roles.

... To help shed light on this "ripple effect" of chronic OA pain, [Pfizer](#) and [Lilly](#)

American Indian and Alaska Native Caregiver Needs

"Perhaps counterintuitively, cultural traditions, beliefs and practices among AI/AN caregivers also can be contributing factors in high rates of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths in different tribal communities. Many of the factors affecting AI/AN caregivers and their older loved ones were identified pre-pandemic in Diverse Elders Coalition research, [The Caregiving Initiative](#).

... A history of distrust in U.S. institutions has led tribal communities across the country to take preventive measures into

partnered with C. Grace Whiting, President and CEO of the National Alliance for Caregiving, to embark on a series of discussions with a physician, patients and caregivers."

From: Pfizer | January 8, 2021

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their own hands during the pandemic. However, the need to help our tribal communities has never been greater. We must acknowledge and listen to tribal communities to resolve the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native caregivers."

From: Generations Today | Jan-Feb, 2021

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CAREGIVING FACT OF THE WEEK

Caregiving and Vaccines

With the COVID-19 vaccine rollout ramping up, it's important caregivers are aware of the importance of helping their care recipient get the COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible, as well as themselves, if possible in their state. Some states, such as [Massachusetts](#) (see above article), [Georgia](#), and [New Hampshire](#), allow caregivers who accompany care recipients of a certain age or condition to receive the vaccine themselves. The Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) offers an updated table to COVID-19 vaccine priority populations in each state. View the table [HERE](#) to see when you and your care recipient are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in your state.

Identify Vaccine Misinformation

To help fight COVID-19 vaccine misinformation, NAC has partnered up with [HealthGuard](#) to make their browser extension, that protects individuals against misinformation, free for all families globally until June 30th. HealthGuard has also put together COVID-19 misinformation resources to help you understand the facts about the vaccine.

Simply install the HealthGuard desktop website extension browser, and you'll get detailed trust rating for hundreds of health news websites. Once activated, you'll see red and green HealthGuard rating icons next to links on search engines, social media sites, and other online platforms. Green icons mean a site is generally trustworthy. Red icons mean it is generally unreliable-so you'll know to proceed with caution. Keep in mind that the browser extension is free until June 30th. On June 30th, there is a cost associated with the service.

If you're ever concerned about the vaccine, make sure you're checking out the facts with HealthGuard. Click the red link below to learn more.

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EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Time Every Time: Delivering Hospital at Home Ancillary Services

February 16, 2021 | 4 PM EST | Online

Delivering a variety of ancillary services is a key requirement of the CMS Acute Hospital Care at Home waiver program, and new and existing programs must ensure that a whole range of services — from labs and imaging to food and durable medical equipment — are available when hospital at home patients need them.

REGISTER



Older Adults and COVID-19: Implications for Aging Policy and Practice

February 19, 2021 | 2:00 PM EST | Online

This webinar is based on a special double-issue of the Journal of Aging & Social Policy (JASP) that has recently been released as a book by Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. This volume includes 28 articles written by leading gerontology researchers who offer perspectives on a range of issues surrounding the virus and its impact on older adults, their families, caregivers, and communities.

The webinar will examine the impact of COVID-19 for delivering and financing long-term services and supports (LTSS); high-risk older adults in communities; families and caregivers of older adults; local government and community responses; economic risks for older workers and retirees; and, documenting and combating ageism. It proposes policies and strategies for protecting and improving the lives of older people during the pandemic. It draws lessons for aging policy and practice more generally, given underlying challenges brought to the fore by government, provider, community, and individual responses to the pandemic.

REGISTER



World Rare Disease Day

February 28, 2021 | Worldwide

Held the last day of February each year, World Rare Disease Day is an annual observance to raise awareness for 400 million people affected by rare disease globally. World Rare Disease Day 2021 is February 28th, 2021.



Here's what can you do to help elevate the cause and shine a light on rare disease patients and caregivers around the world:

- **Join a Rare Disease Event**
- **Wear Your Blue Denim Genes Ribbon**
- **Interact on Social Media by Tweeting with the hashtag #RareDiseaseDay and #CareAbout RARE.**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is hosting Rare Disease Day on March 1, 2021 from 10:30 AM-5:30 PM EST! Each year, NCATS and the NIH **Clinical Center** sponsor Rare Disease Day at NIH as part of this global observance. Rare Disease Day at NIH aims to raise awareness about rare diseases, the people they affect, and NIH research collaborations underway to address scientific challenges and to advance new treatments.

The event is free and open to the public. **Register with the link below!**

REGISTER



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

United Hospital Fund 2021 Distinguished Community Service Award

Deadline: March 1, 2021

The Distinguished Community Service Award annually recognizes exceptional voluntary leadership of a specific initiative that is improving health and health care in the New York metropolitan area.

To nominate an outstanding leader for the award, send a brief e-mail to dsca@uhfnyc.org with the following information:

- Nominee's full name, title, and business affiliation (if any), address, and telephone number;
- Description of the nominee's specific initiative, project, or organization, its significance, and its benefit to the community;
- Summary of the nominee's role in the initiative, particularly their voluntary leadership;
- Your name and affiliation (if any), contact information, and how you know the nominee.

E-mail nomination to dsca@uhfnyc.org by March 1, 2021!

PATIENT AND CAREGIVER STUDIES

Participate in a Caregiving Study at the University of FL

Researchers at The University of Florida are looking for family caregivers of a person diagnosed with dementia, Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment to participate in a one-time phone interview. Interviews will last no more than 60 minutes and volunteers will be compensated a \$50 Amazon gift card for their participation.

If you or someone you know may be interested in this study, please contact eastonwollney@ufl.edu.

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RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Medical Care at Home Comes of Age

The California Health Care Foundation released a report on home-based medical care models:



"While increasing use of home-based medical models could improve outcomes and lower costs for different types of high-need, high-cost patients, the burgeoning landscape of these models can be difficult to make sense of.

This report aims to make it easier for policymakers, health plans, and health systems to understand the why, what, and how of home-based medical care models."

From: California Health Care Foundation | January 13, 2021

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