



CMS Snapshot

December 23, 2020-January 7, 2021

Delivered to you by the Partner Relations Group in the Office of Communications

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, December 23 through 2pm Thursday, January 7, 2021.

News Releases

*December 28- [Secretary Azar Statement on Executive Order Supporting In-Person Schooling](#). On Monday, President Trump signed an executive order directing HHS to allow funds available through the Community Services Block Grant program, administered through the Administration for Children and Families, to be used by grantees and eligible entities to provide emergency learning scholarships to disadvantaged families for their children who lack access to in-person learning.

*December 29- [Make Every Bite Count: USDA, HHS Release Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025](#). Nutrition in America took a major step forward today with the publication of Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025. Jointly published by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) every five years the guidelines provide science-based recommendations designed to foster healthy dietary patterns for Americans of all ages – from birth through older adults. Importantly, this edition expands the guidance, for the first time including recommended healthy dietary patterns for infants and toddlers.

*December 30- [HHS Releases Advisory Opinion Clarifying that 340B Discounts Apply to Contract Pharmacies](#). On Wednesday, the HHS Office of the General Counsel released an advisory opinion concluding that drug manufacturers are required to deliver discounts under the 340B Drug Pricing Program (340B Program) on covered outpatient drugs when contract pharmacies are acting as agents of 340B covered entities.

*January 6, 2021- [HHS Announces New HPV Vaccination Campaign for Young Adults and Health Care Providers](#). Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health](#) (OASH), [Office on Women's Health](#) is launching the *HPV VAX NOW* campaign with the long-term goal of increasing human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates among young adults ages 18–26. The campaign will specifically target young adults and

healthcare providers in Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas — states with some of the lowest HPV vaccination rates in the country.

*January 6- [HHS Announces \\$22 Billion in Funding to Support Expanded Testing, Vaccination Distribution](#). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced two upcoming actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide more than \$22 billion in funding to states, localities, and territories in support of the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as directed by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

*January 7- [HHS Final Rule to Align Grants Regulation with Nondiscrimination Statutes Including Those Protecting Religious Liberty](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a final rule that requires grantees to comply with applicable nondiscrimination statutes, including those protecting religious liberty. The final rule revises certain regulatory provisions in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards ("HHS grants regulation") that were amended in 2016 to condition funding for grant recipients, including adoption and foster care service providers, in a way that burdened faith-based providers.

*January 7- [HHS Continues Community Based Testing Sites for COVID-19](#). Today, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the extension of the Community Based Testing Site program for COVID-19 testing, through partnership with national pharmacy and retail chains CVS, Rite-Aid, Walgreens, Quest (through services at Walmart) and service provider eTrueNorth (through services at Health Mart and Topco locations). The partnership has resulted in establishing more than 3,300 COVID-19 testing locations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. To date, more than 5.6 million tests have been conducted as a result of this partnership.

*January 7- [HHS Releases National Strategic Plan to Address Viral Hepatitis](#). The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a national plan to address the serious, preventable public health threat caused by viral hepatitis in the United States. The [Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan for the United States: A Roadmap to Elimination 2021–2025](#) sets national goals, objectives, and strategies to respond to viral hepatitis epidemics. Building on three prior National Viral Hepatitis Action Plans over the last 10 years, the Viral Hepatitis National Strategic Plan is the first to aim for elimination of viral hepatitis as a public health threat in the United States by 2030.

Blogs

*December 29- [Confronting Heightened Cybersecurity Threats Amid COVID-19](#). Did you know that Americans' private health data is estimated to be worth up to 20 times the value of financial data on the Dark Web?¹ This makes the Health and Public Health (HPH) Sector a

primary target for cybercriminals. When an HPH Sector entity is affected by a cyber event, the public may lose its ability to engage with or receive health services, putting lives at risk. The COVID-19 pandemic has raised the stakes, increasing cyber risk in the HPH Sector in proportion to the increased pace of activity amid widespread transition to remote work environments.

*January 4, 2021- [Get ready to use your new coverage for the new year](#). The New Year can bring many changes, and is a great time to choose to put your health first. Start your New Year by learning about your new Medicare coverage and costs, and staying healthy by using preventive services.

CMS has developed a [Virtual Toolkit](#) to help you stay informed on CMS and HHS materials available on the COVID-19. Please share these materials, bookmark the page, and check back often for the most up-to-date information. For more information, please email partnership@cms.hhs.gov