



## **CMS Snapshot**

### **March 4-11, 2021**

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

All releases below are from 2pm Thursday, March 4 through 2pm Thursday, March 11, 2021.

#### **News Releases**

\*March 8- [Biden Administration to Invest \\$250 Million in Effort to Encourage COVID-19 Safety and Vaccination Among Underserved Populations](#). As part of President Biden's National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness today, the Administration is announcing an effort to invest \$250 million to encourage COVID-19 safety and vaccination among underserved populations. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) will offer the funding as health literacy grants to localities, who will partner with community-based organizations, to reach racial and ethnic minority, rural and other vulnerable populations.

\*March 9- [Extension of the Public Comment Period for Proposed Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy Rule](#). Today, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces a 45-day extension of the public comment period for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to modify the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule.

\*March 10- [CMS Updates Nursing Home Guidance with Revised Visitation Recommendations](#). The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), issued updated guidance today for nursing homes to safely expand visitation options during the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency (PHE).

#### **Fact Sheet**

\*March 10- [CMS Updates Nursing Home Guidance with Revised Visitation Recommendations](#). Nursing homes have been severely impacted by COVID-19, with outbreaks causing high rates of infection, morbidity, and mortality.<sup>[1]</sup> The vulnerable nature of the nursing home population, combined with the inherent risks of congregate living in a healthcare setting, have required

aggressive efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within these facilities.

## Blogs

\*March 11- [Enroll by May 15 for 2021 health insurance](#). You have through **May 15** to enroll in or change your Health Insurance Marketplace® plan with a [Special Enrollment Period](#) due to the [coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) emergency](#).

*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](mailto:partnership@cms.hhs.gov)*