



March 2020

COVID-19 and Dementia

Most likely, dementia does not increase the risk for COVID-19 — the respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus — just as dementia does not increase the risk for flu. However, dementia-related behaviors, increased age, and common health conditions that often accompany dementia may increase this risk.

As the public health community continues to respond to the rapidly-evolving COVID-19 pandemic, people living with dementia (and their caregivers) require special consideration. For example, people living with dementia may forget to wash their hands or take recommended precautions to prevent the spread of illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises caregivers to make plans for alternative care should they become sick themselves and to request personal protective equipment (PPE) from local health departments.

Stay up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 developments:

- Alzheimer's Association: alz.org/covid19
- CDC: cdc.gov/covid19
- CDC's Alzheimer's Disease + Healthy Aging Program: cdc.gov/aging/covid19-guidance.html

Funding Announcement

This week, the CDC's Alzheimer's Disease + Healthy Aging Program released two notices of funding opportunity (NOFOs) to support implementation of the Healthy Brain Initiative Road Maps: *State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map* and the *Road Map for Indian Country*.

These NOFOs stem from the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act (P.L. 115-406). For more detail, read the [public health programs NOFO](#) and [nationwide centers of excellence NOFO](#).

NEW DATE: Dementia Caregiving Webinar

Supporting the Front Line: The Public Health Approach to Dementia Caregiving has been rescheduled. Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, April 14 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. ET** to watch this live webcast. All registrants for the original webinar (previously scheduled for March 17) have been sent updated login information. If you have not yet registered, please [register in advance](#).

More than 16 million friends, family members, and neighbors regularly care for a person living with dementia. Dementia caregiving is long, intense, and intimate, and can take a toll on the health of caregivers themselves. Public health can play a central role ensuring dementia caregivers have access to support, receive training on how to best provide dementia care, and are able to manage their own health. Caregivers in underserved communities should be a priority population.

Presenters include:

- Valerie Edwards, PhD, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention — will discuss nationwide data on caregiving, caregiver health, and caregiver burden
- B. Michael Nayeri, NMD, FABMP, FABFM, Arizona Department of Health Services — will discuss a new dementia caregiver self-management support program
- Kristen Felten, MSW, APSW, Wisconsin Department of Health Services — will discuss an online training module designed to educate dementia caregivers
- Grace Whiting, JD, National Alliance for Caregiving — will provide discussant remarks on the presentations and connect them to the larger, national landscape

The webinar will also feature actions of the [Healthy Brain Initiative — State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018-2023 Road Map](#) that state and local public health agencies can take to better meet the needs of caregivers. Be sure to [register in advance](#) and share this announcement with colleagues.

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