

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

July 31, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

Provider reimbursement for counseling COVID-19 patients to self-isolate when tested

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have announced that payment is available to health care providers to counsel patients at the time of COVID-19 testing about the importance of self-isolation after they are tested and before the onset of symptoms.

This reimbursement recognizes the importance of self-isolation education. CDC models show when patients who are tested for the virus are separated from others and placed in quarantine, there can be up to an 86% reduction in the transmission of the virus compared to a 40% decrease in viral transmission if the patient isolates after symptoms arise.

Provider counseling to patients at the time of their COVID-19 testing includes:

- Discussion of the immediate need for isolation, even before results are available.
- If the test is positive, advising patients that public health authorities will ask them for contact-tracing information and instruct them to tell their immediate household and recent contacts.
- If the test is positive, advising patients to always wear a mask.
- Review of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection and services available to aid in isolating at home.
- Telling their immediate household that they too should be tested.

CMS will use existing evaluation and management payment codes to reimburse providers who are eligible to bill CMS for counseling services no matter where a test is administered, including providers' offices, urgent care clinics, hospitals and community drive-thru or pharmacy testing sites. Further information and resource links are available in the [Counseling Checklist PDF](#).

Gov. Reynolds to resume semiweekly press conferences

Starting next week, Gov. Kim Reynolds will return to regular semiweekly press conferences to update Iowans on the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The press conferences are scheduled **11-11:30 am Tuesdays and Thursdays** and will be livestreamed on broadcast and online feeds by Iowa PBS. There also will be an ASL sign language interpreter and a Spanish translation.

Webinar opportunities

- **3-4 pm Tuesday, Aug. 4, COVID-19: Behavioral Health and Post-acute Care** – This session will provide the experience of members from the New Jersey Hospital Association in lessons learned and best practices for managing challenges throughout COVID-19 focusing on behavioral health and post-acute care. Register [HERE](#).
- **Noon-1 pm Thursday, Aug. 6, Leadership and Resiliency: Navigating Through and Beyond COVID-19** – How

Hospitals and Health Systems Can Lead a “Quiet Revolution” for Healing During a Pandemic – This presentation is led by Dayna Bowen Matthew, JD, PhD, dean for George Washington University Law School. Her career has focused on racial disparities in health care and she’ll examine the role health providers can play in increasing health equity. This session, and the entire series, is complimentary. Register [HERE](#).

- **2-3 pm Thursday, Aug. 6, Cultivating Good Health Through Personal Vitality: Developing Resilience for Personal and Professional Well-being** – This webinar will discuss the fundamentals of resilience and long-term strategies for developing a resilient core. Participants will examine the value of developing a flexible mindset and focusing on the positive when all around seems negative. Participants will learn how to conduct a resilience assessment and create a support system when facing challenges. Register [HERE](#).
- **Noon-1 pm Thursday, Aug. 20, Leadership and Resiliency: Navigating Through and Beyond COVID-19 – Win When: The 21st Century Challenges of Health Equity** – From broken community partnerships to diminished funding, how do we overcome the 21st century challenges of health equity? This presentation motivates clinicians, researchers and health care leaders to explore the role, recognition and remediation of inequity in medicine. The presentation also teaches health care providers and biomedical researchers how to clinically confront the deadly “isms” that prevent quality care and public wellness. This session, and the entire series, is complimentary. Register [HERE](#).

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Resources



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