

# IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

June 18, 2020

## The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

### Wellmark extends virtual-visit reimbursements to Feb. 1

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield announced it will extend the same reimbursement fee to Iowa providers for virtual visits as is paid for in-person visits until Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. The extension applies to appropriate medical and behavioral health virtual visits with Wellmark in-network providers in Iowa. Wellmark first announced telehealth reimbursement parity on March 20. Wellmark [also extended other temporary coverage](#) for COVID-19 that expired earlier this week to Monday, Aug. 31.

### SBA and Treasury launch new and revised applications for Paycheck Protection Program

The US Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, posted a [revised, borrower-friendly Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application](#) and a new [EZ version](#) of the forgiveness application. The EZ version applies to borrowers who:

- Are self-employed and have no employees.
- Did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25% and did not reduce the number or hours of their employees.
- Experienced business reductions because of health directives related to COVID-19 and did not reduce the salaries or wages of their employees by more than 25%.

The EZ application requires fewer calculations and less documentation for eligible borrowers. Details about the applicability of these provisions are available in the instructions to the new EZ application form.

Both applications give borrowers the option of using the original eight-week covered period (if their loan was made before June 5) or an extended 24-week covered period. These changes will result in a more efficient process and make it easier for businesses to realize full forgiveness of their loans.

### Main Street program expansion proposal to include hospitals

The Federal Reserve Board [announced](#) it will seek public comments on a proposal to expand its Main Street Lending Program to provide access to credit for nonprofit organizations, including hospitals. The program offers loans to small and medium-sized businesses. The proposed expansion would offer loans to small and medium-sized nonprofits in sound financial condition before COVID-19 that could benefit from additional liquidity to manage during the pandemic.

Loan terms under the proposed Main Street nonprofit loans — including the interest rate, deferral of principal and interest payments, and five-year term — are the same as for Main Street business loans. Loans are between \$250,000 and \$300 million. Principal payments are fully deferred for the first two years of the loan, and interest payments are deferred for one year. Two loan options would be offered under the proposal. Borrower eligibility requirements for the proposed nonprofit facilities would be modified from the for-profit facilities to reflect the operational and accounting practices of the nonprofit sector and

include:

- A limit on endowments of no more than \$3 billion.
- A minimum of 50 and maximum of 15,000 employees.
- An operational history of at least five years.
- Financial thresholds based on operating performance, liquidity and ability to repay debt.

Comments about the proposal are due Monday, June 22.

### **HHS issues new FAQs about emergency relief fund reporting**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently updated its FAQs for the CARES Act emergency relief fund, with specific attention to provider reporting for these funds.

Specifically, providers that have received emergency relief payments do not need to submit a quarterly report to HHS or the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. The statutory requirement for quarterly reports for these funds is being met by HHS' public release of the data for each payment it has distributed. The publicly available data on HHS' Tracking Accountability in Government Grants System website includes the name and payment amount for each provider that has attested to receiving the emergency relief funds and agreed to the terms and conditions (or has retained its payment for more than 90 days).

Providers still must submit reports that allow HHS to ensure compliance with payment terms and conditions. HHS will require fund recipients to submit reports about their use of the relief payments and will notify recipients of the content and due date(s) of such reports.

### **CEO update call**

The next CEO update call is scheduled from **1-2 pm Wednesday, July 1**. Register [here](#).

### **Free webinar opportunities**

- 2-3 pm Thursday, June 18, ***Coming Out of COVID-19 Town Hall: The Virtual Liaison***. Join a panel of hospital leaders to discuss virtual engagement and available tools to continue the important work of physician alignment and improved network utilization. Register [here](#).
- 2-3 pm Tuesday, June 23, ***Cultivating Good Health Through Personal Vitality Series***. Good health in today's environment is defined as much by our resiliency and vitality as it is by our physical fitness and measurements. This webinar centers on living a vibrant life, even when dealing with anxiety, depression, pain or stress. Register [here](#).

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