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# IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

June 25, 2020

## The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

### Register for June 30 AHA Virtual Advocacy Day

As Congress considers additional COVID-19 relief actions, it is important that hospital and health systems' priorities are at the top of the list. The focus is on the Senate, and it is critical that lawmakers hear about important issues that must be included in the legislative package.

Join AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack and AHA Executive Vice President Tom Nickels at 1 pm Tuesday, June 30, for updates on the next COVID-19 relief package and ways to engage with lawmakers virtually.

Among other issues, they will discuss the need for Congress to:

- Enact full forgiveness of Medicare accelerated payments for hospitals.
- Grant appropriate liability protections to front-line medical providers and facilities.
- Maintain health benefits for individuals and families, and increase coverage options for those who are uninsured.
- Provide additional federal support for our health care heroes.

**You must register by 4 pm Monday, June 29, to participate in this AHA members-only event. Click [HERE](#) to register.**

After you register, you will receive an email with instructions for accessing the event.

If you have questions, please call AHA at 800-424-4301.

### Remdesivir Advisory Committee issues guidance

An advisory committee to the Iowa Department of Public Health worked this month to further develop [guidance for use of remdesivir in hospitalized patients](#). IDPH Director Gerd Clabaugh chaired the committee that included hospital representatives and physicians. The guidance considers the exclusion and inclusion criteria of the NIAID clinical trial, the specifics of the emergency use authorization and its provider fact sheet, and protocols established by hospitals participating in the Gilead remdesivir clinical trials. The guidance should inform use but is not a substitute for individualized clinical decision-making by treating physicians following hospital policies for use of restricted drugs.

### Serology testing available through Iowa State University

Additional capacity to perform COVID-19 antibody (serology) testing for Iowans is now available at Public Health Testing Services at Iowa State University. The University of Iowa's State Hygienic Laboratory also continues to offer serologic testing for COVID-19.

Public Health Testing Services was established this month through the collaborative efforts of the State Hygienic Laboratory, the Iowa Department of Public Health and Iowa State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Blood draw materials should be acquired locally since these materials are readily available commercially. Please use gold or marble-top (serum separator tubes) for blood collection. Public Health Testing Services uses Central Delivery Service of Iowa (the same courier system as the State Hygienic Laboratory). Requests for courier pickups can be made by using the Central Delivery Services of Iowa [website](#) or by calling Public Health Testing Services at 515-296-3150.

Submitting health care providers should register to be a client on the Public Health Testing Services' [client portal](#). Results can be retrieved through the portal. For more information about sample submissions, visit <https://phts.iastate.edu> or call 515-296-3150.

### CMS issues call to action based on new COVID-19 Medicare beneficiaries impact data

CMS is calling for a renewed national commitment to value-based care based on Medicare claims data that is providing an early snapshot of the impact of COVID-19 on the Medicare population. The data includes the number of reported COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among Medicare beneficiaries from Jan. 1-May 16. The snapshot breaks down COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations for Medicare beneficiaries by state, race/ethnicity, age, gender, dual eligibility for Medicare and Medicaid, and urban/rural locations.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about the Medicare COVID-19 data and [HERE](#) for a FAQ about this data release.

### Provider Relief Fund FAQs updated

HHS has released updated Provider Relief Fund FAQs. Updates include:

- Clarification on the eligibility for buyers in asset deals.
- Modification to 340B savings instructions.
- New FAQ for safety net hospital distribution.
- New FAQ for the time period for use of the funds.

Click [HERE](#) to view the updated FAQs.

### CEO update call

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

### Free webinar opportunities

- 10-11 am Thursday, June 25, **COVID-19 Coding Opportunities and Challenges**. Representatives from HCCS will host this webinar to discuss COVID-19-related coding changes. Register [here](#).
- 2-3 pm Thursday, June 25, **Coming Out of COVID Town Hall: Content Shifts in Communication**. Healthgrades' COVID-19 patient confidence study shows consumer confidence toward health care providers is on the rise with 86% of respondents saying they feel comfortable visiting their health care provider. Join this week's COVID Town Hall to hear a panel discuss engaging patients and consumers with targeted and personalized messaging. Register [here](#).
- 9-10 am Tuesday, June 30, **COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund Developments and Strategies: Legal and Accounting Perspectives**. This presentation will provide an overview of the relief fund and each of the payment distributions, include the latest developments from Health and Human Services and describe best practices and strategies for obtaining and keeping relief funds, including legal, compliance, tax and audit concerns. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Tuesday, June 30, **COVID-19: Preparing for the New Norm**. This webinar outlines organizational processes, staffing, telehealth, patient safety and other areas likely to be transformed by COVID-19 and ways hospitals can get in front of these developments. Strategies and tactics reviewed are based on consultations the presenters have provided to health care organizations that are working through these challenges. Register [here](#).
- 11-noon Tuesday, July 14, **Embracing the COVID-19 Disruption: Leadership Perspectives on the Future of Acute Care**. Presented by Becker's Healthcare, this webinar will:
  - Discuss the importance of strategic leadership to combat the challenges facing hospitals and health systems nationwide.

- Share insights on what health care will look like going forward, and how hospitals can prepare now by driving change within their organizations.
- Showcase examples of innovation and collaboration stemming from the pandemic.
- Understand how physicians can lead health systems to chart the course for updated care delivery policies and procedures.

Register [here](#).



A banner with a background of red and yellow confetti. It features the text "Click here for the latest COVID-19 Resources" in large, bold, black font. To the right is the Iowa Hospital Association logo, which consists of a stylized blue 'H' with three red wavy lines through it, followed by the text "IOWA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION". Below the logo is the tagline "We care about Iowa's health".



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