

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

May 21, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

SBA and Treasury release Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application

The Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Department of the Treasury have released the Paycheck Protection Program loan-forgiveness application. SBA also will soon issue regulations and guidance to further help borrowers as they complete their applications and provide lenders with guidance for their responsibilities.

The [form and instructions](#) include several measures to reduce compliance burdens and simplify the process for borrowers, including:

- Addition of a new exemption from the loan-forgiveness reduction for borrowers who have made a good-faith, written offer to rehire workers that was declined.
- Implementing borrower-friendly statutory exemptions from loan-forgiveness reductions based on rehiring by Tuesday, June 30.
- Flexibility to include eligible payroll and non-payroll expenses paid or incurred during the eight-week period after receiving a Paycheck Protection Program loan.
- Options for borrowers to calculate payroll costs using an “alternative payroll covered period” that aligns with borrowers’ regular payroll cycles.
- Detailed instructions regarding the calculations to confirm eligibility for loan forgiveness.

CMS issues guidance to safely reopen nursing homes

CMS has announced [new guidance](#) detailing reopening steps nursing homes and communities should take, including infection prevention and control, testing and surveillance. The recommendations are to ensure nursing homes are taking appropriate steps to maintain resident safety and reunite families with their loved ones.

Specifically, CMS is recommending that:

- Nursing homes do not advance through reopening phases or relax restrictions until residents and staff have received baseline test results.
- Nursing homes remain in the current state of highest restriction even when communities begin to relax restrictions for other businesses and should be among the last to reopen in communities.
- State survey agencies inspect nursing homes that experienced a significant COVID-19 outbreak before reopening.

Nursing homes may receive visitors when there has been a sustained decrease in COVID-19 cases. A variety of factors must go into making this decision, including case counts and state nursing home assessments. Visitors always must be screened and wear cloth face coverings.

CMS’ guidance encourages state leaders to collaborate with survey agencies and local health departments to decide how these

measures should be implemented. CMS recommends that decisions about relaxing restrictions be made with careful reviews of facilities, communities and state factors, including:

- Access to adequate personal protective equipment.
- Baseline testing of residents, weekly testing of staff, practicing physical distancing, and universal source control for residents and visitors (e.g., face coverings).
- Local hospital capacity.
- Staffing.
- The status of COVID-19 cases in communities and nursing homes.

State and local leaders are urged to regularly monitor reopening factors and adjust plans depending on virus data in their communities.

CMS modifies previously issued blanket waivers

CMS has amended two blanket waivers previously issued. The amended waivers can be found [here](#) on pages 4, 5 and 29 next to the red text that says, "Modified Since 5/11 Release." The modifications concern physical environment requirements and data collection for ground ambulance organizations.

CEO update call

The CEO update calls will begin an every-other-week schedule. The next call is from **1-2 pm Wednesday, June 3**. A registration link will be published in tomorrow's newsletter..

Free webinar opportunitie

- 9-10 am Thursday, May 21, ***Lessons Learned From COVID-19 and the Future of Health Care Design***. This panel session evaluates lessons learned to date from COVID-19. Leadership from engineering consultants IMEG explains what was done to prepare for a pandemic inpatient surge nationwide, what has been learned from those activities and how this pandemic will mold the design of health care going forward. Register [here](#).
- 11:30 am-noon Thursday, May 21, ***Prioritizing Essential Care in the Wake of COVID-19***. As health systems emerge and recover from the COVID-19 surge, patients seeking nonemergent care and elective procedures will begin to return to facilities. Many of these patients may be in an acute state. Health care organizations need to assess how they will reengage promptly with their patients and reschedule appointments and procedures while managing potential flare-ups of COVID-19. Register [here](#).
- 2-3 pm Thursday, May 21, ***Coronavirus Town Hall on Patient and Staff Safety and Experience***. Sponsored by HealthGrades, this town hall features a panel of hospital quality leaders who will discuss how their health systems have addressed patient and staff safety as well as the patient and staff experience during COVID-19. Register [here](#).
- 11 am-Noon Tuesday, May 26, ***Emerging Physician Recruiting and Retention Paradigms During and Post-COVID-19***. This presentation will review the emerging methods that hospitals, medical groups and other health care facilities are using to retain and recruit medical staff during COVID-19 as well as factors that should be considered as we emerge from the crisis. The program includes original data from a physician survey conducted by Merritt Hawkins in collaboration with The Physicians Foundation that tracks how physicians are being affected by and are responding to COVID-19. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, May 27, ***Inspiration Speakers Series: Grand Finale***. The series concludes with an event hosted by a special guest. Register [here](#).
- 9-10 am Friday, May 29, ***Risk Management and Returning Volunteers***. This webinar will focus on issues specific to volunteers returning to facilities following COVID-19 and how to address issues specific to this process. It will include a discussion of the categories of volunteers, wage-hour concerns and safety issues. It also will focus on practical questions such as training and consents. Register [here](#).
- 10-11 am Tuesday, June 2, ***Access Physicians' Telemedicine Services***. ServiShare partner Access Physicians will discuss its approach to working with hospitals to build and scale financially sustainable telemedicine programs. The webinar will focus on a telemedicine program's ability to increase revenue, deliver high-quality patient outcomes, and enhance staff satisfaction and professional development. Register [here](#).

- 2-3 pm Tuesday, June 9, ***The Times They are a-Changing: Thriving in Uncertainty***. For the health of our communities, it is important for health care workers to thrive and succeed. But COVID-19 places additional stressors on health care workers. This webinar provides information and practical tools that health care workers can use to improve patient care by improving the resilience and well-being of employees and their employers. Register [here](#).
- 11 am-Noon Wednesday, June 10, ***COVID-19 Investment Implications for Health Care Organizations***. Speakers will share valuable insights into the macroeconomic and capital markets and offer views on where areas of investment risk and opportunity may lie. They also will discuss the investment implications of COVID-19 and best practices for managing health care investment funds in a time of uncertainty. Register [here](#).

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