

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

May 26, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

HHS provides nearly \$9.5 million for COVID-19 testing in Iowa rural communities

Earlier this week, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided \$225 million to rural health clinics nationwide for COVID-19 testing. In Iowa, approximately 190 rural health clinics received nearly \$9.5 million in total funding.

Within 45 days of receiving their payments, clinics must sign an attestation confirming receipt of the funds and agreeing to the [terms and conditions](#). If a clinic chooses to reject the funds, it also must complete the attestation to indicate this. The [payment attestation portal](#) will guide clinics through the process to accept or reject the funds. Not returning the payment within 45 days of receipt will be viewed as acceptance of the terms and conditions.

Agencies provide return-to-work guidance

Several agencies recently provided return-to-work advice for employers and employees:

Iowa Workforce Development.

- As employers recall employees, either from furloughs or from telework arrangements, some employees will remain eligible for expanded unemployment benefits. If you have specific questions about the recall process or individual employees, contact Iowa Workforce Development at 866-239-0843.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

- Workplaces are encouraged to post OSHA's one page Ten Steps poster with tips to reduce risk of exposure. The English version of the poster is available [here](#) and in 12 other languages [here](#).
- OSHA updated its interim enforcement guidance, available [here](#). If you are not sure whether your organization is subject to OSHA recordkeeping requirements, call 800-321-6742. Under the interim guidance, COVID-19 is a recordable illness, and covered employers are responsible for recording cases of COVID-19 if the case:
 - Involves one or more of the general recording criteria set forth in 29 CFR § 1904.7.
 - Is confirmed as COVID-19, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
 - Is work-related as defined by 29 CFR § 1904.5.

CDC.

- The CDC has published a [60-page document](#) outlining various return-to-work/economic issues. The document includes information about testing, contact tracing, surveillance, and other criteria and strategies.
 - If your organization has tried to compile a list of resources, Appendix C provides a summary with links to CDC and partner websites.
 - Appendix F provides guidance for child care programs, restaurants and bars, and mass transit.

Iowa Department of Public Health.

- The Iowa Department of Public Health has reopening guidance available [here](#).

CEO update call

The next CEO update call is scheduled from **1-2 pm Wednesday, June 3**. Register [here](#).

Next COVID-19 update newsletter

Because of the Memorial Day holiday, the next issue of IHA's COVID-19 update will be sent Wednesday, May 27.

Free webinar opportunities

- 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](#).
- 10-11 am Thursday, May 28, ***The Philanthropy Impact on Health Care Organizations During the COVID-19 Crisis and Beyond***. Although hospitals are strained with new protocols and financial concerns, the community is reaching out to help in unprecedented numbers. This webinar will justify philanthropy as a supplemental revenue source by sharing the philanthropic return on investment. 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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COVID-19
Resources



IOWA HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

We care about Iowa's health



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