

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

May 8, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

HHS extends deadline for attestation, acceptance of terms and conditions for provider relief fund payments

The Department of Health and Human Services has [extended the deadline](#) for providers to attest receipt of payments from the Provider Relief Fund and accept the terms and conditions. Providers have 45 days, increased from 30 days, from the date they receive a payment to attest and accept the terms and conditions or return the funds. As a result, the initial 30-day deadline for providers who received payment on April 10, is extended to May 24 from May 9. With this extension, providers not returning the payment within 45 days of receipt of payment will be viewed as acceptance of the terms and conditions.

Blanket waiver issued for fire safety systems

CMS has released a [blanket waiver](#) for the maintenance and testing of fire safety systems. CMS is temporarily modifying requirements to permit facilities to adjust scheduled inspection, testing and maintenance frequencies. CMS is not recommending a revised testing schedule for the various systems; rather it is asking providers to evaluate their situation and if there is a need to adjust schedules because of the pandemic, its permitted.

CMS has determined five items too critical to waive. These items are not part of the blanket waiver and facilities must find a way to safely adhere to the ITM requirements. These items include:

- Elevators with firefighters' emergency operations monthly testing.
- Emergency generator 30-continuous-minute monthly testing and associated transfer switch monthly testing.
- Means of egress daily inspection in areas that have undergone construction, repair, alterations or additions to ensure its ability to be used instantly in case of emergency.
- Portable fire extinguisher monthly inspection.
- Sprinkler system monthly electric motor-driven and weekly diesel engine-driven fire pump testing.

Also, fire drills are not waived as they are not an activity covered under this blanket waiver.

Finkenauer introduces bipartisan bill to help rural community hospitals

To help ensure the financial viability of rural hospitals, Congresswoman Abby Finkenauer (IA-01) today introduced the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Extension Act of 2020.

Since 2004, the Rural Community Hospital program has provided "tweener" hospitals with enhanced reimbursements for the inpatient services provided. It was originally authorized for five years and then twice it was extended again. Without Congressional action, the program expires between 2020 and 2021. Five Iowa hospitals currently receive funding under the program.

The bipartisan legislation, cosponsored by Rep. Don Young (R-AK), extends the original program for an additional five years and ensures tweener hospitals do not face budget cuts.

A bipartisan companion bill is being led in the Senate by Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK). The legislation is endorsed by IHA, the American Hospital Association, MercyOne and UnityPoint Health.

CEO update call

The next hospital CEO call is scheduled from 1-2 pm Wednesday, May 13. Click [here](#) to register.

Free webinar opportunities

- 11-11:30 am Tuesday, May 12, **Emergency Department Telemedicine Reimbursement COVID-19 Update**. The COVID-19 crisis has forced hospitals to create new ways to deliver patient care, especially in the emergency department. The burgeoning telemedicine industry has expanded significantly as hospitals and physicians have used telemedicine to carry out physical distancing and increase access to care. Government and private regulations have been rewritten completely to support this expansion. This rapid evolution has helped keep patients and providers safe while preserving the supply of personal protective equipment. Attend this webinar to learn the latest telemedicine adaptations in the emergency department and understand how to ensure compliant reimbursement and best practices to ensure your hospital's success and survival. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Tuesday, May 12, **Planning for the Future With COVID-19**. Emergency plans tend to focus on events that might last 24-72 hours, not the months-long situation we have faced with COVID-19. This most-recent opportunity to use emergency plans has likely created some needs to improvise solutions. This webinar will help capture early lessons and provide a framework for shaping the future. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, May 13, **Inspiration Speakers Series: Dr. Celina Peerman**. Dr. Peerman is an organizational behavior specialist with more than 25 years of experience from front-line to senior-level positions in a range of industries and organizations. She is passionate about engaging our human resources in new ways to achieve better organizational results. Register [here](#).
- 11 am-Noon Thursday, May 14, **Evaluating the Financial Implications of COVID-19 on Iowa Hospitals**. The Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) understands the need for our members to evaluate the continued financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. IHA has engaged Clifton Larsen Allen to provide additional financial modeling to analyze the impact to cash flow and long-term finances. This analysis includes understanding the initial cash flow impact, projected modeling of the "new normal" and potentially recapturing percentages of lost revenues. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, May 20, **Inspiration Speakers Series: Kenyon Salo, What is 'The Bucket List Life?'** Salo is one of the top keynote speakers and trainers in the fields of motivation, inspiration and adventure. One of only five members on the Denver Broncos Thunderstorm Skydive Team, he is seen each week flying into the Denver Broncos Stadium at more than 60 mph, ending with a soft tip-toe landing on the 10-yard line. He brings to the stage more than 20 years of successful audience engagement through humor, awe-inspiring moments, prolific storytelling and edge-of-the-seat content. Register [here](#).
- 2-3 pm Wednesday, May 20, **Working With Change**. We live in a turbulent world. Change is the only constant. Health care organizations can either embrace it or shy away and become obsolete. This webinar will help participants prepare for and understand the dynamics of change. Participants will learn the steps of individual and organizational change as well as how they can become more resilient in times of change. Register [here](#).

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IOWA HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

We care about Iowa's health



Iowa Hospital Association
100 E. Grand Ave., Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1800

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