

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

October 30, 2020

IDPH releases interim COVID-19 vaccination strategy

To ensure broad-based coverage of an FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccine, IDPH has developed a [COVID-19 vaccination strategy](#) in cooperation with IHA, its health system members and other state agencies. The strategy shares planning and strategy assumptions, roles and responsibilities, ordering and reporting, and mass vaccination tools to reduce morbidity and mortality. IDPH expects to receive near-daily communication from internal, external and federal partners over the next weeks and months.

IDPH provides updated vaccine information

The Iowa Department of Public Health has updated their vaccination FAQs for [health care providers](#) and [public health agencies](#). Updated and new information is highlighted in the documents.

On-site COVID-19 vaccination program for long-term care facilities announced

The CDC is partnering with CVS and Walgreens to offer on-site COVID-19 vaccinations for nursing home and assisted living facility residents when vaccination is recommended for them. The Pharmacy Partnership for Long-term Care Program provides end-to-end management of the COVID-19 vaccination process – including cold chain management, on-site vaccinations and reporting-requirement fulfillment – to facilitate safe vaccination of this patient population while reducing the burden on facilities and jurisdictional health departments. The program also will be available in rural areas that may not have easily accessible pharmacies. In addition, staff can be vaccinated as part of the program, which is free to facilities.

The pharmacies will:

- Schedule and coordinate on-site clinic date(s) with each facility. Three visits over approximately two months will likely be needed to administer the vaccine to residents and staff.
- Order vaccines and associated supplies (e.g., syringes, needles, personal protective equipment).
- Ensure cold chain management for vaccine.
- Provide on-site administration of vaccine.
- Report required vaccination data (approximately 20 data fields) to local, state/territorial and federal jurisdictions within 72 hours of administering each dose.
- Adhere to applicable CMS COVID-19 testing requirements.

If interested in participating, facilities can sign up (or opt out) now through Monday, Nov. 2:

- Skilled nursing facilities make their selections through the [National Healthcare Safety Network](#). An “alert” is incorporated into the NHSN LTCF COVID-19 module to guide users to the form.
- Assisted living facilities make their selections through a [REDcap form](#).

Facilities will indicate which pharmacy partner (one of two large retail pharmacies or an existing long-term care pharmacy) they prefer. Online sign-up information will be distributed through partner communication channels (email, social media, web). Indicating interest in participating is nonbinding, and facilities may change their selection or opt in or out by email after the online survey closes.

When the sign-up period has closed, changes cannot be made through the online form, and facilities must coordinate with their selected pharmacy providers to change any requested vaccination supplies and services. The CDC will communicate preferences to CVS and Walgreens. They will try to honor facility preferences but may reassign facilities depending on vaccine availability and distribution considerations and to minimize vaccine wastage. After the first phase of vaccinations, each facility can choose to continue working with CVS, Walgreens or a pharmacy provider of its choice.

Click [HERE](#) for a FAQ about the program. Email eocevent494@cdc.gov with questions.

HHS rolls out data changes for reporting requirements

The new [Iowa data dictionary](#) for reporting requirements started this week. The most-significant changes are:

- Iowa's mental health institutes and rehabilitation facilities are only required to report the Daily HHS Hospital COVID Reporting Survey once a week on Wednesdays. This is the only survey they must report. These facilities are:
 - Mental Health Institute Cherokee.
 - Mental Health Institute Independence.
 - Mercy Iowa City Rehabilitation Hospital.
 - Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital.
 - University of Iowa Health Network Rehabilitation Hospital.
- The PPE-related questions in HHS reporting will only be required weekly on Wednesdays.
- To align Iowa's reporting period with HHS, time-bound questions in the Hospital PPE Query now will ask for "previous calendar day" instead of "since the last reporting period."

The updates to the data elements and new questions announced by HHS on Oct. 6 have been incorporated into the EMResource data collection survey to assure compliance with the HHS data dictionary.

Iowa COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths hit record highs

As of 10 am today, Iowa has reported 109,573 cases of COVID-19 and 1,579 deaths. That's an increase of 1,276 cases and 31 deaths since 10 am Tuesday. It's a record number of reported deaths for a single day. The state also reported 534 people were hospitalized, topping Tuesday's record high of 501. It's important to note that not all 31 deaths occurred in a single day. It can take days or even weeks before a COVID-19 death is confirmed and added to the state's data.

Rep. Axne requests Iowa's contingency plan for hospital bed shortages as COVID-19 cases spike

This week, Rep. Cindy Axne wrote to Iowa's health and emergency management leaders requesting information on Iowa's contingency plans for a shortage of intensive care unit beds as hospitalizations from COVID-19 infections rise statewide. [In her letter to IDPH and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management](#), Rep. Axne specifically highlights the concern she has for rural counties in Iowa's Third Congressional District [that have no ICU capacity](#).

Educational opportunities

- **1-2 pm Wednesday, Nov. 11, *Building a Tele-Maternal-Fetal Medicine Program***. This webinar will provide an overview of a tele-maternal-fetal medicine partnership and discuss expected outcome improvement for pregnant women and babies, and the financial return on investment for hospitals and practices. Access Physicians' unique model incorporates antepartum rounding and ultrasound interpretation and supports transitions of care to outpatient settings. Register [HERE](#).
- **2-3 pm Thursday, Nov. 19, *How to Cope With Difficult Emotions***. Difficult emotions are inevitable but ignoring them rarely makes them dissipate and rumination adds to suffering. This webinar will focus on a four-step meditation technique to reduce emotional suffering while creating space for inner wisdom and insight. This technique can be applied in workplace situations when needed. Register [HERE](#).
- **2020 IHA Virtual Annual Meeting**. Although the annual meeting is over, those who registered can still log in to their [LeaderPass](#) accounts and view sessions and evaluate speakers until Friday, Oct. 30. In addition, if you did not register and attend the annual meeting last week, you can still register and watch the sessions on demand. Click [HERE](#) to register for the annual meeting. You then will receive instructions to create a LeaderPass account.

Click here for the latest
COVID-19
Resources



IOWA HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

We care about Iowa's health



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

[Unsubscribe](#)

