

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

September 14, 2020

IDPH releases COVID-19 vaccine frequently asked questions

The Iowa Department of Public Health has released a [COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions document](#) for local public health departments, health care providers and the public. The document is posted to the HAN *3 COVID-19 Vaccine folder and IDPH's website. If you have questions, call the Immunization Program at 800-831-6293.

AHA urges unified guidelines to lead COVID-19 vaccine allocation process

The AHA has urged the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine to adopt a unified set of guidelines to account for the variables associated with all issues of the eventual allocation of COVID-19 vaccine allocation. In a letter to the academies, AHA stressed the importance of a singular message to the public and other stakeholders to ensure the process remains equitable.

[Read AHA's full comments](#), which also address vaccine hesitancy, the potential for multiple available vaccines, comorbidity considerations, and public- and private-sector decisions and policies.

CMS issues surveyor guidance for COVID-19 testing for labs and long-term care

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued new surveyor guidance for COVID-19 laboratory test result reporting for Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments-certified laboratories. The new guidance complements a Sept. 2 interim final rule. Laboratories are expected to comply with the new requirements no later than Wednesday, Sept. 23. After that date, laboratories not in compliance will be subject to civil monetary penalties. CMS also released new enforcement regulations for long-term care facility reporting requirements. Click [HERE](#) for details.

New CPT codes address new understanding of COVID-19

An [updated set](#) of current procedural terminology codes includes two for reporting medical services necessitated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Medical Association yesterday announced the update, which include:

- CPT code 99072, which describes additional supplies and clinical staff time to perform safety protocols for the provision of evaluation, treatment or procedural services during a public health emergency in a setting where extra precautions are taken to ensure the safety of patients and health care professionals.
- CPT code 86413, which accounts for laboratory tests that can measure antibodies to investigate a person's adaptive immune response to the virus and help assess the effectiveness of treatments used against the infection.

Long, short and medium descriptors for both codes can be accessed on the AMA website, with several other recent modifications to the CPT code set that have helped streamline the public health response to COVID-19.

AHA offers resources for supporting the mental and emotional well-being of health care workers

AHA offers online resources to address health care workforce emotional wellness and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. They are:

- [COVID-19: Stress and Coping Resources](#).

[Leading Through Crisis: A Resource Compendium for Nurse Leaders.](#)

- [Well-being Resources Addressing Resilience During COVID-19.](#)

In addition, AHA and the National Academy of Medicine's Coalition on Clinician Well-being are planning [a virtual event for Oct 28-29](#). More information will be released soon.

Next CEO update call

The next CEO update call will be in conjunction with the IHA Statewide All-District Virtual Meeting, scheduled from 1-2:30 pm, Wednesday, Sept. 23. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Educational opportunities

- **Noon-1 pm Wednesday, Sept. 16, Amplified Burnout Crisis for Physicians and Clinicians: Exploring Solutions –** COVID-19 has brought unprecedented changes and challenges to the health care workforce. Before the pandemic, health care was already experiencing record rates of physician and clinician burnout. The burnout's effects can be disastrous for teams and patients. This webinar will outline what can be done to prevent it and how to leverage the pandemic to restore professionalism and resiliency and create stronger, more patient-centric organizations. Register [HERE](#).
- **2-3 pm Thursday, Sept. 17, Gratitude: The Path to Resilience, Well-being and Joy –** Gratitude isn't just a practice that makes one feel good. It can boost resilience, improve sleep, be a buffer against anxiety and depression, and reduce burnout in health care professionals. This webinar will explore meditation, journaling and expressive art practices designed to cultivate gratitude and boost resilience. Attendees also will learn how gratitude can enhance on-the-job effectiveness. Register [HERE](#).
- **8:30 am-12:30 pm Friday, Sept. 18, Iowa Society for Healthcare Engineering Virtual Conference –** The society's fall conference provides education to promote quality patient care, optimize facilities for the COVID-19 environment and prepare for health care's future through improved engineering practices. Register [HERE](#).
- **10 am-Noon, Wednesday, Sept. 23, Preparing for the New Normal in Survey Process –** CMS, The Joint Commission and Det Norske Veritas have started to re-engage with hospitals nationwide as some areas begin to emerge from their crisis operating conditions under the surge standard of care. It is important to understand how to be prepared for the new survey normal. Register [HERE](#).

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