

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

April 17, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

IME issues informational letter about prior authorizations and managed care claims

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise issued an [informational letter](#) April 16 regarding prior authorizations and managed-care claims. Currently, IME is not waiving all prior authorizations. However, prior authorizations approved by the managed-care organizations, dental plan administrators or the department (for fee for service) for elective procedures that were delayed or cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and expire in March, April or May 2020 will be extended for an additional 90 days from the expiration date. IME also announced that effective with dates of service beginning April 1, 2020, providers will have an additional 90 calendar days to submit first-time medical claims and encounters for managed-care claims.

Next round of CARES Act funding announced; attestation portal launched

CMS Administrator Seema Verma reported on April 15 the agency is preparing to send a second round of funds this week from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, the \$100 billion relief fund in the CARES Act. This round of assistance will be geared toward hot spot areas of the country and providers who may not have benefited from last week's round of funding. IHA will continue to monitor this as updates are released.

Health care providers who receive funds from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund must, within 30 days of receipt, [attest to receiving the funds](#) and agree to the terms and conditions of payment. This site is open to all providers, regardless of network affiliation or payer contract. Hospitals that choose to reject the funds also must complete the attestation to indicate this.

Workforce Development processes benefit checks

Iowa Workforce Development began paying CARES Act benefits this week including the additional \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation weekly benefit amount and unemployment claims for the self-employed. This week, nearly \$61 million in benefits were paid to 93,546 Iowans.

Employers or claimants with questions can email [Iowa Workforce Development](#) or call 866-239-0843. Check Iowa Work Force Development's [website](#) for videos, webinars, FAQs and other information for different types of claims and programs including the CARES Act benefits and payments.

U of Iowa's MADE program constructing face shields

Face shields designed by the University of Iowa's Advanced Prototyping Team are being assembled by university employees and students under the supervision of their FDA-compliant MADE program. The Protostudios Face Shield is manufactured using parts sourced from Iowa. Click [here](#) to order or for more information.

FEMA task force develops COVID-19 hospital resource package

The FEMA Healthcare Resilience Task Force has created the [COVID-19 Hospital Resource Package](#) as a comprehensive guide for common crisis challenges, enabling hospitals and their personnel to operate more effectively and efficiently.

The document includes a list of best practices and resources for hospital administrators, hospital emergency planners and infection control practitioners for the following topics:

- Crisis standards of care.
- Equipment supply surge.
- Hospital surge.
- Regulatory relief.
- Staffing surge and resilience.
- Telemedicine.
- Workforce protection.

CDC updates guidance for health care facility infection prevention

Effective since April 13, the CDC published several changes to its guidance for health care facility infection prevention:

- Implement source control for everyone – despite their symptoms – entering a health care facility to address asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission. This includes health care personnel, patients and visitors. This action is recommended to help prevent transmission from infected people who may or may not have symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Cloth face coverings are not considered personal protective equipment because the capability to protect health care personnel is unknown. Facemasks, if available, should be reserved for health care personnel.
 - For visitors and patients, a cloth face covering may be appropriate. If a visitor or patient arrives at the health care facility without a cloth face covering, a facemask may be used for source control if supplies are available.
- Screen everyone for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before they enter the health care facility.
 - As community transmission intensifies within a region, health care facilities could consider foregoing contact tracing for exposures in a health care setting in favor of universal source control for health care personnel and screening for fever and symptoms before every shift.

Links for additional updated guidance:

- [Interim guidance for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions and disposition of hospitalized patients with COVID-19.](#)
- [Interim guidance on criteria for return to work for healthcare personnel with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.](#)
- [Strategies to mitigate staffing shortages.](#)
- [Strategies to optimize the supply of personal protective equipment and other equipment.](#)

CDC issues new guidance for pharmacies

Today, the CDC issued new [guidance](#) for pharmacies:

- Everyone entering the pharmacy should wear a face covering, despite symptoms. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise cannot remove the mask without help.
- Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should always wear face masks for source control while in the pharmacy.
- Postpone and reschedule delivery of some routine clinical preventive services, such as adult immunizations, which require face-to-face encounters.
- In pharmacies with a co-located clinic:
 - Clinic patients with respiratory illness should remain in their vehicles and call the clinic.
 - If possible, clinics should provide a separate entrance for their patients.
 - The clinic should provide face masks or cloth face coverings for patients, ideally before entering the building.

Free webinar opportunities

- 1-2 pm Wednesday, April 22, **Inspiration Speakers Series: Don't Just Survive – Thrive!** Holly Hoffman was the last

woman standing on Season 21 of CBS' hit reality show Survivor: Nicaragua. Author of "Your Winner Within" and "Write Yourself a Note," Holly acknowledges that life is made up of challenges, and we are oftentimes faced with situations that seem insurmountable. But in each of us is an ability to focus our thoughts, emotions and energy to succeed. Register [here](#) for this complimentary webinar.

- 1:30-3 pm Thursday, April 30, **HRSA Telehealth Learning Series: Telehealth in the Time of COVID-19**. Provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration. To register, click [here](#).

CEO update call

The next hospital CEO call is scheduled for 1 pm Wednesday, April 22. Click [here](#) to register.

IHA COVID-19 resource webpage

For current information about COVID-19, visit IHA's [resource page](#).

Previous IHA Updates on COVID-19

- [April 15 Update](#)
- [April 14 Update](#)
- [April 13 Update](#)
- [April 10 Update](#)
- [April 9 Update](#)
- [April 8 Update](#)
- [April 7 Update](#)
- [April 6 Update](#)
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