

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

April 20, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

USDA offers temporary payment deferrals for Community Facilities Direct Loan Program

The US Department of Agriculture's Community Facilities Direct Loan Program will temporarily allow borrowers with direct loans to request payment deferrals to help with any temporary cash flow issues. This change is effective on publication in the Federal Register through Sept. 30. The USDA will provide the option of principal and interest payment deferrals to borrowers affected by COVID-19 for up to one year because of hardship. The borrower must request any payment deferrals from the agency in writing. Click [here](#) for more information.

New nursing homes COVID-19 transparency effort announced

On April 19, CMS announced [new regulatory requirements](#) requiring nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. In addition, CMS now requires nursing homes to report cases of COVID-19 directly to the CDC. This information must be reported according to existing privacy regulations and statute. This measure augments longstanding requirements for reporting infectious disease to state and local health departments. CMS also requires nursing homes to fully cooperate with CDC surveillance efforts concerning COVID-19 spread.

CDC will provide a reporting tool to nursing homes to support federal efforts to collect nationwide data and will make the data publicly available.

More details are available in the [press release](#) and [guidance memo](#).

IDPH updates mandatory reporting order

The Iowa Department of Public Health has updated its mandatory reporting order to temporarily include positive and negative results for SARS-CoV-2 testing, including viral RNA, and all results for SARS-CoV-2 serological testing, including antigen and antibody testing. This order applies to health care providers and public, private and hospital laboratories. Reports must be made electronically through the Iowa Disease Surveillance System or faxed to 515-281-5698. This order rescinds an order published March 19 and will remain in effect until Dec. 31.

CMS recommends reopening health systems in areas with low COVID-19 incidence

On April 19, CMS issued [new recommendations](#) specifically targeted to communities in Phase 1 of the guidelines for areas with low incidence or relatively low and stable incidence of COVID-19 cases. The CMS guidelines recommend a gradual transition and encourage health care providers to coordinate with local and state public health officials and to review the availability of personal protective equipment and other supplies, workforce availability, facility readiness and testing capacity when making the decision to restart or increase in-person care.

IDPH releases list of state telehealth options

Additional telehealth capabilities are now provided by Iowa health insurers and health care providers. Click [here](#) for examples of known telehealth options in Iowa.

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](#).
- 9-10:30 am Thursday, April 23, ***SBA Funding Options for Physicians and Other Providers Under the CARES Act.*** The Small Business Administration (SBA) loan program available under the CARES Act plugs into an existing infrastructure. This webinar will help participants understand the eligibility criteria, including SBA affiliation rules applicable to SBA assistance, requirements imposed on receipt of funds under these programs and the consequences of providing false, misleading or fraudulent information in an application. Register [here](#).
- 10-11 am Thursday, April 23, ***Furloughs, Layoffs and a Grab Bag of Evolving COVID-19 Employment Issues.*** JoEllen Whitney, a senior shareholder with the Davis Brown Law Firm, will focus on recent legal issues with paid leave, job service and the effect of full and partial layoffs. She also will provide updates on issues under the CARES Act and job service including communication strategies for health care employees. Register [here](#).
- 9-10:30 am Tuesday, April 28, ***Latest Stark Law Updates, Including Recent CMS Waivers.*** This webinar will cover the Physician Self-Referral Law (the Stark Law), including the latest developments, as well as discuss the status of proposed regulatory reforms and the recent CMS waivers associated with COVID-19. Register [here](#).
- Noon-1 pm Wednesday, April 22, ***Inspiration Speakers Series: Kevin Kush.*** Kush has been involved in coaching and teaching for more than 30 years. He spent 21 of those years working with at-risk youth at Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. As a head football coach, he compiled a remarkable record of 164 wins and just 58 losses with 13 of those teams finishing in the top 10. Kush was featured on ABC World News Tonight as their Person of the Week. Register [here](#).
- 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. Register [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

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

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