

IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

April 7, 2020

The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

IHA district COVID-19 list servs now available

List servs for each IHA district are now available for members to use to share geographic and referral needs, ask questions to others in your districts and to share best practices. Hospital CEOs and hospital preparedness staff are included on these lists. If you would like to add someone to the list or be removed, please email [Jen Nutt](#) at IHA.

AHA members must register today for webinar on SBA's paycheck protection program

A webinar to discuss the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) for AHA members only is set for Tuesday at 9 am CDT. Speakers will cover issues related to eligibility, loan uses and terms, as well as the conditions for forgiveness. Participants will have a chance to ask questions.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act amended the Small Business Act to create the PPP, which expands eligibility for and provides \$349 billion to fund special new loans, loan forgiveness and other relief to small businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

AHA Members are to register by 5 p.m. CDT today, Monday, April 6 to attend. For questions, please call 312-422-3000.

HHS OIG provides guidance about Stark Law

The US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General [announced](#) that it will not impose administrative sanctions under the federal anti-kickback statute for arrangements covered by the recently issued [blanket Stark Law waivers](#).

IHA requests additional waivers for Iowa hospitals from CMS

IHA sent Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) Director Michael Randol a [letter](#) Monday requesting additional waivers from CMS for Iowa's Medicaid program. This letter is in response to an [informational letter](#) IME issued last week highlighting the [waivers IME has requested from CMS as of April 2](#).

Medicare coverage and payment of virtual services

CMS has released a new [video](#) addressing common questions about the Medicare telehealth services benefit. CMS is expanding this benefit on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver authority and Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Surgical centers can enroll as hospitals

CMS [announced](#) it is allowing Medicare-enrolled ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) to enroll as hospitals and provide inpatient and outpatient hospital services to increase hospital capacity. An ASC wishing to enroll as a hospital during COVID-19 should notify the Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) that serves its jurisdiction of its intention by calling the contractor's provider

enrollment hotline.

IDPH provides guidance on use of homemade gowns

With the national shortage of PPE, there may come a time when commercially manufactured gowns are no longer readily available. If so, health care workers can use homemade cloth gowns during patient care activities. These homemade gowns are not considered PPE because their ability to protect against COVID-19 has not yet been studied. But if they are the only protection available, they should be used. Please refer to [Use of Homemade Gowns for Patient Care When Commercially Produced Personal Protective Equipment Is Unavailable](#) and [Guidance for Iowans to Sew Cloth Gowns for Health Care Providers](#).

Respiratory protection and the N95 shortage

OSHA has provided [interim guidance](#) to compliance safety and health officers for enforcing the respiratory protection standard (29 CFR § 1910.134) and other health standards for supply shortages of disposable N95 filtering facepiece respirators. Specifically, it outlines enforcement discretion to permit the extended use and reuse of respirators, as well as the use of respirators beyond the manufacturers' recommended shelf lives.

Complimentary COVID-19 educational webinars

Emergency Cash Flow Management

1 pm Tuesday, April 7

IHA Associate Member Stroudwater Associates will review important steps rural hospitals should take to understand the magnitude of their potential cash shortfall and tactics to address urgent liquidity needs. It will be an operations-level discussion on the immediate cash management steps hospital leaders should consider over the next several weeks and months. Gain actionable, practical steps leaders should take to increase cash flow by leveraging the CARES Act and traditional cash-management strategies.

[Click here](#) to download a PDF that contains relevant resources and learn best-practice approaches taken by an innovative rural hospital that effectively positioned itself for the post-pandemic world.

Presenters: Kevin DeRonde, CEO, Mahaska Health, and Eric Shell, Stroudwater Associates Chairman of the Board.

[Register here](#). Email [Eric Shell](#) with questions.

Governance in the Time of Coronavirus: What Governing Boards Should Do Now to Deal with the Pandemic

4 pm Wednesday, April 8

Learn what boards should do to help their leadership teams, hospitals and themselves prepare for the immediate future of the pandemic. This program outlines unique issues and actions that boards should think about now to ensure they stay ahead of unprecedented situations and challenges that are just around the corner.

Presenter: Jamie Orlikoff, President, Orlikoff & Associates, Chicago

Register [here](#).

Update for Rural Partners, Stakeholders and Communities on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response

3 pm Wednesday, April 8

Presenter: Jay Butler, MD, Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases, CDC

Opening remarks: Eric Hargan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

To submit questions in advance, email [Dr. Butler](#) with "Rural Health Update 4/8" in the subject line. A recording of this event will be available on CDC's website within a week at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/index.html.

Health Care Heroes: Best Practices for Surviving Stress and Growing Through Trauma

11 am Thursday, April 9

Presenters: Wayne Sotile, PhD, and Gary Simonds, MD, coauthors of "Thriving in Health Care"

Drs. Sotile and Simonds will share practical tips and answer questions. Their goal is to provide helpful tools and tactics to put into practice immediately, including:

- Finding new ways to practice kindness and nurture professional and personal relationships.
- Identifying the connection between meaningful work and resilience.
- Integrating moments of self-compassion and self-care into the workday.

Participants are urged to [submit questions](#) in advance regarding coping with extreme stress or helping coworkers better cope.

Register [here](#).

Preparing for FEMA Disaster Declaration Reimbursement

10-11 am Wednesday, April 8

Accessing the \$2 Trillion Recovery Fund for COVID-19

1-2 pm Thursday, April 9

IHA is partnering with Mississippi and other state hospital associations for these two webinars highlighting what members need to do to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursements. The webinars will review what hospital leaders should do as they plan for potential reimbursements from FEMA for COVID-19. Key deadlines, documentation and what costs may be reimbursable will be provided.

Email [Michelle Ketelsen](#) at IHA with any questions.

CEO update call

The next hospital CEO call is scheduled for 1 pm Wednesday, April 8. 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 3 Update](#)
- [April 2, Update](#)
- [April 1 Update](#)
- [March 31 Update](#)
- [March 30 Update](#)
- [March 27 Update](#)
- [March 26 Update](#)
- [March 25 Update](#)
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Iowa Hospital Association
100 E. Grand Ave., Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1800

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