

# IHA COVID Resources and Advocacy

March 30, 2020

## The latest about COVID-19 from IHA

### Latest coronavirus legislation signed into law

The third emergency response COVID-19 bill approved by the Senate yesterday was passed by the House today and immediately signed into law by the President. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides critical financial and regulatory relief to hospitals and was detailed in yesterday's *IHA COVID-19 Update*. Government agencies will soon be rolling out the various provisions and IHA will continue to provide updates as they develop.

### IHA receives section 1135 waiver from CMS

IHA received a letter from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) yesterday granting many of the waivers we applied for earlier this week. These waivers apply to Iowa hospitals and during the COVID-19 emergency will provide hospitals more flexibility in responding and providing aid.

[Click here](#) to view the entire CMS letter. [Click here](#) to see a breakdown of the accepted waiver provisions.

### Governor's office and IDPH Direct IHA to gather daily reports

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Governor's office have directed IHA to manage EMresource for bed availability and PPE tracking. The request is for available beds and PPE supply be reported daily.

IHA staff is reaching out to identify the person in your organization responsible for entering data into EMresource. Beginning Monday, IHA will daily be monitoring data entry for both available beds and PPE and also on a daily basis contacting hospitals that have not entered data. Contact [Jennifer Nutt](#) at IHA with any questions.

### Governor's proclamation health care highlights

IHA has developed a [more detailed summary](#) of the proclamation issued by Governor Reynolds yesterday focusing on the health care items.

### COVID Guidance from Iowa Workforce Development

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) issued guidance on aiding workers and employers affected by layoffs created by COVID-19. The guidance includes information for employees filing for unemployment insurance claims, as well as programs available to employers.

### Unemployment insurance claims:

- If you are laid off due to COVID-19 or have to stay home to self-isolate, care for family members or due to illness related to COVID-19, you can receive unemployment benefits, provided you meet all other eligibility requirements. Work search

requirements will be waived. More specific explanation of benefit eligibility can be found at in the [IWD Handbook](#).

- Claimants can expect to receive payment within 7-10 days after the date the claim is filed.
- Claims that are filed and identified as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19, will not be charged to employers. Fact-finding interviews for these claims will be waived and not be held although employers will be notified of claims received.
- IWD will process unemployment insurance payments to ensure payment will continue to be paid in a timely manner.

Further information and assistance can be found by calling 1-866-239-0843 or by visiting the [Iowa Workforce Development COVID-19 Webpage](#).

#### **Other IWD Resources for Employers and Workers:**

- [COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Benefits for Employers Q&A](#)
- [Voluntary Shared Work Program](#)
- [COVID-19 Unemployment Insurance Benefits for Workers Q&A](#)
- [Paid Leave and Unemployment Benefits](#)

#### **Board of Nursing issues guidance on hiring and nursing licenses during COVID-19**

The Iowa Board of Nursing (IBON) issued a [memo in response to updates on policy](#) provided through a state proclamation that active single or multi-state licensees may now work in Iowa without an Iowa license if certain measures are met.

- Employers are required to verify the licensee status by accessing <https://nursys.com> for national licensing information or the [IBON licensure system](#) for state licensure information.
- Employers need to also check the [discipline database](#) to ensure the license is unencumbered.

Nurses whose licenses have expired less than five years ago are also eligible to assist during this emergency proclamation. Employers need to do the following before allowing an inactive Iowa nurse licensee to practice:

- Verify licensure
- Check the discipline data base
- Check the abuse registry, and
- Check the Office of Inspector General Exclusionary List

Nurses wanting to volunteer during the time period can visit the [Iowa Statewide Emergency Registry of Volunteers](#) website to register. Employers should contact the registry at the same site by clicking on the "Contact Us" tab to request assistance and to access volunteers.

[Click here](#) to see the IBON COVID-19 website and for the most recent guidance.

#### **IDPH schedules webinar for COVID-19 health care providers**

The Iowa Department of Public Health is providing a webinar for COVID-19 health care providers on **Tues., March 31 beginning at 10:00 a.m.** Attendees will hear about Crisis Standards of Care from Dr. Caitlyn Pedati and Dr. David Stilley as well as hydroxychloroquine from Dr. Ed Bottei from the Iowa Poison Control Center. [Click here to register](#).

#### **Recordings of IHA webinars made available**

If you were unable to participate in either of IHA's webinars today, you can still gain from the recordings. Click on the following links to access the recordings: "[Managing Communication and Employee Issues During a Pandemic](#)" and "[Revenue-cycle crisis management: COVID-19](#)". If you have technical issues or questions, contact [Joah Hogan](#) at IHA.

#### **Free COVID-19 course for all state hospital association membership**

IHA is happy to share another training resource on COVID-19. Our partner careLearning has developed a free COVID-19 training course to help educate staff during this pandemic. This free course is available to all facilities, not just careLearning users. To access this course go to <http://client.carelearning.com/carelearnings-covid-19-course-access/>. If you have any issues

with accessing the course contact careLearning at [support@carelearning.com](mailto:support@carelearning.com). Our thoughts are with the health care workers and those affected by this crisis.

### **Next CEO update call**

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

### **IHA COVID-19 resource webpage**

Visit IHA's [coronavirus resource page](#) for current information about COVID-19. The page includes:

### **Previous IHA Updates on COVID-19**

[March 26 Update](#)

[March 25 Update](#)

[March 24 Update](#)

[March 23 Update](#)

[March 22 Update](#)

[March 20 Update](#)

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