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Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Urge Senators to push for movement on behavioral health telehealth](#)
- [Fraudulent activity increases through text messaging](#)
- [AHA seeks replies from health care workers for National Hospital Week](#)



Urge Senators to push for movement on behavioral health telehealth

Telehealth payment parity is a significant hospital priority issue, but it isn't advancing in the Senate. IHA needs advocates to reach out to their Senators to keep this issue moving.

[House File 294](#) is a bill that would require health carriers to provide equal reimbursement for behavioral health services provided through telehealth. This bill passed the House nearly unanimously on a bipartisan vote and has not advanced in the Senate.

Three VoterVoice Action Alerts have been issued to urge Senators to support this measure:

- Advocates who have senators in leadership positions can [click here to take action](#).
- Advocates who live in Senate districts bordering the state can [click here to take action](#).
- Remaining advocates can [click here to take action](#).

After reaching out to your Senator, please share any responses with [Erin Cubit](#) at IHA.

Fraudulent activity increases through text messaging

An increasing number of smishing (text message phishing) attempts have occurred recently. The US Postal Service has been the target of these smishing attempts. The messages say there's been a problem with your package, and you need to click a link to correct the issue. If you receive a text message like this, **do not** click the link. It is recommended you block the number that sent you the text and delete the message.

Other tips to ensure you're prepared to receive a message like this are:

- **Block spam messages** – Call your carrier’s customer service number (usually 611) and instruct them to block text and multimedia messages sent to you as email. You also might be able to log into your account and activate these blocks.
- **Delete text messages** – Legitimate companies will not ask you to confirm or provide personal information.
- **Don’t reply** – Don’t click links provided in text messages. Doing so can install malware, take you to fake websites that look real and steal your information.
- **Report** – Contact the bank, government agency or company the scam artist is impersonating so it can alert others and work with law enforcement to investigate the activity.
- **Review your cell phone bill** – Regularly monitor your bill for unauthorized charges and report them to your carrier.
- **Security updates** – Use the same safety and security practices on your cell phone as you do on your computer: Keep your security software and applications up to date. Be cautious of text messages from unknown senders and unusual text messages from senders you do know.
- **Think** – Verify the identity of the sender and take the time to ask yourself why the sender is asking for your information.
- **Treat your personal information like cash** – Your Social Security number, credit card numbers and other personally identifiable information can be used to steal your money or open new accounts in your name without your knowledge or approval.

Click [HERE](#) for a video about text-message spam and [HERE](#) for an article from the United States Postal Inspection Service about smishing.

WEBINAR

2021 IHA Employment Law 4-Part Virtual Series

Tuesday, May 4 | Noon-1 pm



AHA seeks replies from health care workers for National Hospital Week

As National Hospital Week (May 9-15) approaches with the theme Inspiring Hope Through Healing, AHA would like to honor all hospital and health system team members for their work. AHA is collaborating with Musicians On Call to produce an original song and video inspired by the words of health care workers.

To contribute to these and other efforts during National Hospital Week, AHA invites health care workers to share their replies online or through social media ([#hospitalweek](#)) about what has inspired them throughout the pandemic.

AHA will share these responses through the song, video and other activities during National Hospital Week. Click [HERE](#) to get involved.

Iowa Trauma Coordinators Virtual Conference Series

May 28 | June 4 | June 18 | June 25





NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Some Iowa counties decline state vaccine supplies as demand wanes](#)
- [What we know about the COVID-19 variants and their impact on children](#)
- [To build a healthy community, address telemedicine equity in Iowa](#)

National news

- [Montana health system implements mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations](#)
- [Johnson and Johnson vaccine pause might be lifted this week](#)
- [About 5,800 infections reported in fully vaccinated people](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [IHA Virtual Governance Forum](#): Thursday, April 22-Friday, April 23.
- [Iowa Society for Health Care Human Resources Association Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 28-Thursday, April 29.
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Infection Prevention and Antibiotic Stewardship](#): Tuesday, May 4.
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations Virtual Spring Conference](#): Tuesday, May 4.
- [IHA Employment Law 4-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, May 4-Tuesday, Aug. 31.
- [Foundation Professionals for Iowa Hospitals Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, May 5.
- [Iowa Alliance in Home Care Spring Virtual Conference](#): Thursday, May 6-Thursday, May 20.
- [Iowa Organization for Nursing Leadership Virtual Conference Series](#): Tuesday, May 11-Tuesday, May 25.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 11-Tuesday, Nov. 16.
- [Iowa Society of Healthcare Attorneys Spring Conference](#): Thursday, May 13.
- [Iowa Trauma Coordinators Virtual Conference Series](#): Friday, May 28-Friday, June 25.
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, June 22.

Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](#) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



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