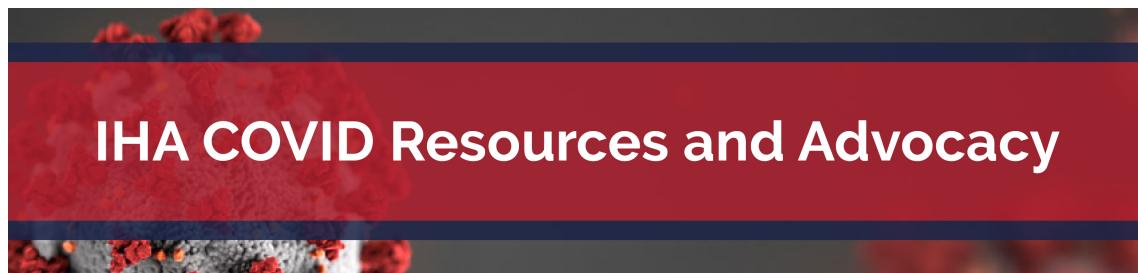


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Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021

### Iowa's Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccination plan to begin Feb. 1

Iowans 75 years of age and older, those with underlying medical conditions and certain essential workers are scheduled to begin receiving the COVID-19 vaccine by the beginning of February. Therefore moving the vaccination plan beyond front-line health care workers and residents and staff at long-term care facilities.

Other groups included in the next step of the plan include:

- Correctional facility staff and inmates
- Disabled Iowans and their caregivers.
- First responders.
- Lawmakers, government officials and staff in this priority group, to ensure continuity of government.
- School and child care staff.
- Staff and people living in congregate settings such as behavioral health treatment centers.
- Workers at food, distribution and manufacturing facilities, including meatpacking plants.

Vaccination for Phase 1B groups will begin as soon as the health care workforce in Iowa has reached 60-70% coverage. Vaccines administered to essential workers will be coordinated through employer-based clinics. In addition, approximately 1,700 providers – including health care clinics and retail pharmacies – have enrolled with the state to administer doses to residents.

Should there be a shortage of vaccines allocated to the state by federal officials, Iowa will prioritize half its vaccine doses to the priority age populations and those with health conditions that put them at risk for severe COVID-19 illness. The remaining half would be prioritized to populations who face high risk of exposure.

### Report looks at vaccine hesitancy

Aetna has published a report to help employers understand and determine how to mitigate vaccine hesitancy in their workplaces. The report examines how communities nationwide view the vaccine and their attitudes toward getting vaccinated. The study found that vaccine adoption – and hesitancy – varies by age, gender, race/ethnicity, education and income-level among other factors, contributing to the complexity of this challenge for employers.

- 28% were interested in receiving a vaccine as soon as possible.
- 35% would wait until others had been vaccinated.
- 20% were uncertain about receiving a vaccination.
- 17% did not plan on being vaccinated.

Click [HERE](#) for the full report.

## IDPH releases new rural health resources

New rural health resources from the Iowa Department of Public Health include:

### Resources:

- [Social Media Toolkit: COVID-19 Vaccinations](#): Offers sample social media messages and graphics to help share information on COVID-19 vaccination. Addresses information on the vaccines, benefits of vaccination, vaccine safety, and what to expect after vaccination.
- [Con Alma Health Foundation: Health Equity and COVID Relief](#): First in a [four-week series](#) exploring how philanthropic organizations are helping rural communities address the impacts of COVID-19. This week, Dolores E. Roybal, executive director of Con Alma Health Foundation, discusses how her foundation partnered with other funders to provide almost \$2 million in grants and created an advisory committee of immigrant-led, immigrant-serving organizations to address barriers limiting access to services.
- [Impacts of COVID-19 on Rural Mental Health](#): Presentation slides from an American Farm Bureau Federation poll of 2,000 rural adults in December 2020, comparing results to a similar April 2019 poll. Addresses perceived importance of mental health, issues of stigma, impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, barriers to care, and other mental health topics. Tracks response trends between 2019 and 2020, highlighting consistent aspects of the survey and changes in impressions and experiences.
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Education Effort: Content for Healthcare Providers](#): Video series for healthcare providers that features physicians and nurses addressing the efficacy and safety of the new vaccines. Covers safety, availability, cost, side effects, vaccine administration, patient education, and more. Additional links: [Partner Toolkit](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccination in Rural Areas](#): The newest section in the Rural Response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) issue guide provides resources to help communities and healthcare providers ensure access to COVID-19 vaccination in rural areas.
- [One in Three Adults Used Telehealth during the First Six Months of the Pandemic, but Unmet Needs for Care Persisted](#): Examines the use of telehealth among nonelderly adults during the first 6 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Explores overall telehealth utilization, patient satisfaction, wanting telehealth services but not receiving them, the share of patients who went without care, and reasons for not using telehealth. Includes data on race/ethnicity, type of insurance coverage, urban or rural residence, health status, and number of chronic conditions.
- [Status of Human Services and Education Funding under Supplemental COVID-19 Packages](#):
- Provides an overview of COVID-19 human services and education funding programs and flexibilities. Describes the county's role in the administration of each program, the source

and amount of funding, and key administrative flexibilities.

- [Vaccine Hesitancy in Rural America:](#) Provides information gathered in surveys and focus groups concerning public opinion about COVID-19 vaccination in rural areas. Features statistics on the percentages of people who intend to get the vaccine, who intend to delay vaccination until they see how well it works in other people, and who fear becoming sick with COVID-19, with breakdowns by urban, suburban, and rural locations.

### **Funding opportunity:**

[Broad Patient-centered Outcomes Research Institute Funding:](#) Funding for patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research that can inform clinical decision-making for a range of conditions, populations and treatments. Special areas of emphasis for the 2021 cycle include increasing access to maternal care, improving care for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities growing into adulthood and improving outcomes and mitigating health effects of COVID-19. Letter of intent (required) is due Tuesday, Feb 2. Application deadline is Tuesday, May 4.

### **Educational opportunities**

- [Roundtable: Thriving Through a Pandemic](#), 10-11 am, Thursday, Jan. 21.
- [Protecting the Employee: Hospital's Responsibilities during COVID](#). 10-11:30 am Wednesday, Jan. 27.
- [COVID-19 and Most Favored Nation Model for Pharmacies](#), 10-11 am Thursday, Jan. 28.
- [COVID-19 Diagnoses, Procedures and Telehealth](#), 10-11 am Thursday, Feb. 4.



The banner features a background of blurred red and yellow shapes resembling falling leaves or petals. In the center, there is large, bold text: "Click here for the latest COVID-19 Resources". To the right of this text is the Iowa Hospital Association logo, which consists of three vertical blue bars of increasing height followed by three horizontal red bars, with the text "IOWA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION" next to it. Below the logo is the tagline "We care about Iowa's health".

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