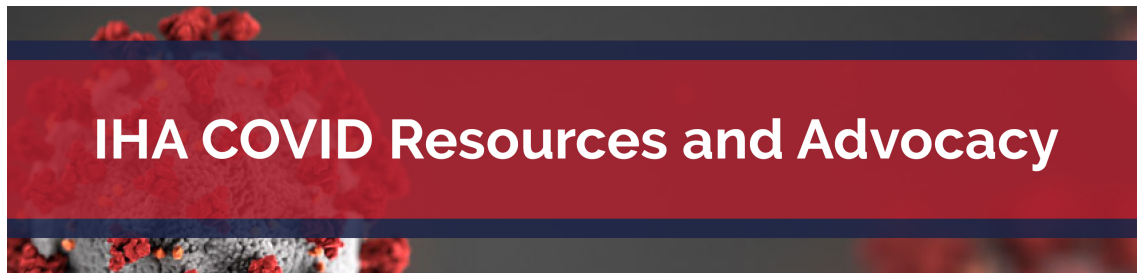


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*Wednesday, March 24, 2021*

### **HHS updates its hospital COVID-19 data reporting guidance**

The Department of Health and Human Services has [updated its guidance](#) to hospitals for reporting COVID-19-related data. The updates reflect the new COVID-19 therapeutic and vaccine that received emergency-use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration. HHS also converted one of the personnel protective equipment data fields from mandatory to optional reporting.

### **New COVID-19 therapeutic data fields**

The FDA [authorized](#) in February a combination therapy of the monoclonal antibodies bamlanivimab and etesevimab. As a result, HHS added two new therapeutic data fields that ask hospitals to report weekly about the treatment courses. The data fields are available now, and reporting is optional but encouraged. It will be required beginning **Wednesday, April 7**. HHS asks that hospitals submit data Wednesdays.

### **COVID-19 vaccination data fields**

Last month, the FDA [authorized](#) Johnson and Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use. As a result, HHS made several clarifications to the instructions in the COVID-19 vaccination data fields. These clarifications include:

- For the field reflecting the count of health care personnel who have received a completed series of COVID-19 vaccination doses (question 44), HHS specifies that the count should include those who received a single-dose vaccine.
- For the field reflecting the previous week's COVID-19 vaccination doses administered to health care personnel (question 41 in the guidance document), HHS specifies that the count should include personnel who received single-dose vaccines.

The guidance document also includes many new frequently asked questions, specifically those that address aspects of the vaccination reporting process, including how HHS is using the reported data and how facilities should count personnel who work at several sites.

### **PPE field update**

HHS has made it optional for hospitals to report whether they have implemented reuse or extended use of certain PPE (i.e., question 31 in the guidance document).

### **IDPH releases updated COVID-19 vaccine information**

IDPH has released the following vaccination information:

- Most-recent [COVID-19 vaccine information brief](#) (changes are highlighted in yellow).
- [Webinar slides from March 19.](#)

## IDPH provides COVID-19 resources for rural health

The latest COVID-19 resources for rural health providers are:

- [Rural Long-Term Care Facilities:](#) This recently reviewed topic guide includes general updates throughout, as well as a new FAQ discussing COVID-19's impact on long-term care facilities.
- [All Hands on Deck: The COVID-19 Pandemic Through Nurses' Eyes:](#) Podcast recording featuring Mary Wakefield describes the role of nurses and the challenges they have faced throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Discusses shortages of personal protective equipment, workforce challenges, vaccine administration and solutions to support nurses in the future. Highlights the experiences of nurses at rural hospitals and clinics.
- [Health Disparities by Race and Ethnicity During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Current Evidence and Policy Approaches:](#) Reviews existing evidence about health disparities related to COVID-19 by race and ethnicity. Presents statistics on infection rates, hospitalization and death rates, and vaccination rates. Discusses the drivers of these disparities and offers policy recommendations to achieve health equity, and reduce racial and ethnic disparities during the COVID-19 response.
- [Innovations and Workforce Challenges for Critical Access Hospitals During COVID-19:](#) Presents results from a survey of critical access hospitals about hospital-operation and workforce adaptations because of the pandemic. Discusses innovative practices adopted by critical access hospitals concerning hospital processes and clinical care. Describes how critical access hospitals overcame workforce challenges during COVID-19.
- [CMS Office of Minority Health COVID-19 Vaccine Resources:](#) Vaccination resources for health care providers and community partners working with racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, people with limited English proficiency, sexual and gender minorities, and rural populations. Provides resources to share with consumers and patients, including information in different languages.
- [COVID-19 and Rural Communities: Protecting Rural Lives and Health:](#) Report examining the impact of COVID-19 in rural America, presenting data on case rates and mortality, prevalence in diverse rural communities and health conditions contributing to severe cases of COVID-19. Discusses issues of socioeconomic vulnerability, health care access and public health compliance. Offers actions to address disparities, including increasing access, supporting livelihoods and considering social determinants of health in health care planning.
- [An Examination of Telehealth Policy Impacts on Initial Rural Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Patterns During the COVID-19 Pandemic:](#) Explores changes in the patterns of medication for opioid use disorder in western North Carolina during the COVID-19 pandemic. Examines the impact of telehealth policy changes during the pandemic on this patient population, access to services for rural patients, clinic volume and changes to provisions.
- [MedPAC Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy, 2021:](#) Annual review of Medicare payment policies, with recommendations to Congress. Includes discussion on Medicare payment policies directly affecting rural providers and beneficiaries. Addresses payment adequacy for health care facilities and services. Improving Medicare payment for

post-acute care, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Part D, and the impact of health care provider consolidation. Contains information on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Medicare beneficiary health care access, mortality and service use. Presents an option for Medicare's coverage of telehealth beyond the public health emergency.

- [State Responses to Address Workforce Needs in the Initial Wave of the Pandemic:](#) Summarizes early findings from a study examining approaches to ensuring adequate workforce capacity and strategies to expand access to needed health care services. Uses information from 32 interviews conducted during the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic, with stakeholders from 23 states. Includes sections on regulatory flexibility, scope of practice, licensing out-of-state providers, acute and ambulatory care services, effects on health professions education and use of telehealth services.

### Educational opportunities

- [Iowa Hospitals' Innovation During COVID-19, 10-11:30 am Tuesday, March 30-Thursday, April 1](#) – This education series, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals through hospital licensing fees, will cover Iowa hospitals' innovative ways for improving telehealth, discharge planning and other best practices to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic. By attending the virtual webinar series, participants will learn about best practices in telehealth, discharge planning and other best practices.
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Webinar](#). Janssen is hosting **daily (Monday-Friday) educational webinars for COVID-19 vaccine administrators through the end of April**. The content of each webinar will be the same, so you only need to attend one session. Click the link above to register. Health care provider questions about the COVID-19 vaccine can be directed to the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 800-831-6293, ext. 1, or emailed to [COVID19Vaccine@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:COVID19Vaccine@idph.iowa.gov).



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