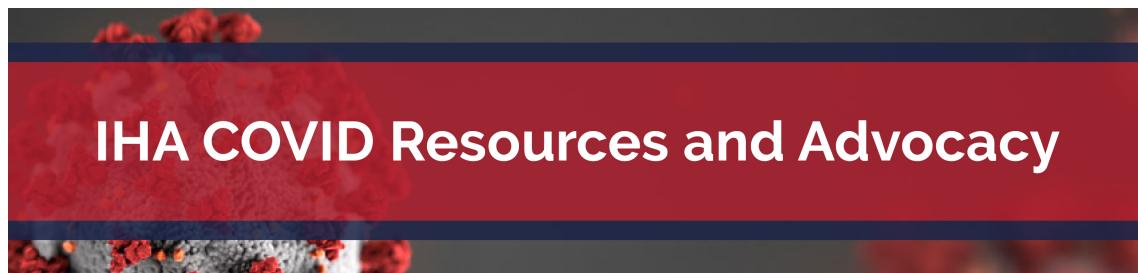


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Wednesday, May 19, 2021

IDPH releases adolescent vaccine guidance document

IDPH has developed a [guidance document](#) for the recent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices vote to recommend the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds. The department also released the following statement:

"The Iowa Department of Public Health is urging families to vaccinate children ages 12-15 against COVID-19. The recommendation comes after the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control](#) both endorsed the safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for that age group. 'We want to emphasize the importance of this vaccine as a tool to keep Iowa kids healthy and encourage families to have a conversation with their children and health care providers,' said Caitlin Pedati, M.D., IDPH medical director and state epidemiologist. 'Making a plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible helps ensure Iowa kids in this age group can safely enjoy their normal summer activities and there's no interference with other immunizations they may be scheduled to receive.' Families are encouraged to contact their health care providers, local public health departments or pharmacies to schedule appointments. Online resources including [VaccinateIowa.gov](#) and [Vaccines.gov](#) are equipped with provider locator tools so families can connect to COVID-19 vaccine providers. IDPH estimates there are approximately 167,000 Iowans in this age group. Hy-Vee recently announced children ages 12-15 can receive the Pfizer vaccine free with parent or guardian consent."

In addition, IDPH has posted recent changes to their [COVID-19 vaccine information brief](#). Changes and additions are highlighted. This document also is posted to the HAN *3 COVID-19 Vaccine folder. Health care provider questions about COVID-19 vaccine can be directed to the COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center at 800-831-6293, ext. 1, or COVID19Vaccine@idph.iowa.gov.

Iowa ends federal UI benefits

Iowa Workforce Development announced the state will no longer participate in federal pandemic-related UI benefit programs, effective Saturday, June 12. After this date, Iowa will no longer waive employer charges for COVID-19-related claims. The department also advises employers to continue to watch for [fraudulent or unusual claims](#).

CDC clarifies masking recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has emphasized that its new masking recommendations for people [fully vaccinated](#) against COVID-19 do not apply to health care settings.

According to the agency, health care facilities should continue to refer to the CDC's infection prevention and control [guidance](#) for recommendations about source control and physical distancing in health care settings.

IDPH offers most-recent resources for rural providers

Recent resources for rural providers from IDPH are:

- [**America at a Glance: COVID-19 Vaccination Among People with Disabilities:**](#) Summarizes results from a survey that examines the experiences of people with disabilities and COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Describes respondents' views on vaccine safety and effectiveness, barriers to getting a vaccination, and vaccination status and intent. Presents data by urban-rural residence. Provides recommendations to improve vaccination rates among this population.
- [**Building Resilience Among Physical and Behavioral Healthcare Providers During a Global Health Pandemic:**](#) Toolkit discusses burnout among physical and behavioral health care providers during the pandemic. Provides strategies to build resilience to burnout. Defines several provider burnout root causes, such as compassion fatigue, ambiguous loss and secondary traumatic stress. Discusses how rural providers, especially sole community providers, can face specific challenges during a pandemic that can lead to burnout.
- [**FAQs for Private and Public Health Care Providers About Implementing the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program in Provider Practices:**](#) Provides guidance to health care providers about providing the COVID-19 vaccine, including storage, reporting and patient education.



Click here for the latest
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