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Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Updates about COVID-19 vaccines and boosters](#)
- [IHA Advocacy Team weekly roundup](#)
- [Inpatient bed-tracking study committee presented with draft report](#)

Updates about COVID-19 vaccines and boosters

The Iowa Department of Public Health released an information brief about COVID-19 vaccines and boosters on Friday, Oct. 22. The brief includes Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccine directives, including:

- Authorization of mix-and-match booster doses.
- Indications for booster doses.
- Recommendations for Johnson and Johnson booster doses.

The Centers for Disease and Prevention Clinician Outreach and Communication will overview the most-recent recommendations for administering the COVID-19 booster vaccines on a call scheduled from 1-2 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 26.

For more information about the CDC recommendations and to register for the COCA call, click [HERE](#).

IHA Advocacy Team weekly roundup

Looking ahead to the 2022 legislative sessions, IHA's advocacy team continues to meet with state legislators and attend council and committee meetings.

On Thursday, staff members attended the Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission meeting and Future Ready Iowa's workforce roundtable at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC).

Mental health planning and advisory council meeting

During the [Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Commission's](#) joint meeting, members laid out its 2022 legislative goals. Several of its goals aligned with IHA's own 2022 legislative priorities including:

- Priorities to expand workforce.
- Provisions to Medicaid to create a more seamless and timely reimbursement

system.

- Retain and train programs.

Workforce roundtable

Future Ready Iowa, an Iowa Workforce Development program, continues to host workforce roundtables statewide. Iowa Workforce Development discussed recommendations from the governor's Economic Recovery Advisory Board and the impact of child care staff shortages on Iowa's workforce.

According to Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa lost 33% of its child care businesses over the past five years, which has affected the workforce in other industries, including health care. A task force will discuss recommendations to address:

- Child care workforce issues.
- Expanding eligibility for child care assistance.
- Increasing employer investment and engagement opportunities in child care.
- Regulatory barriers and financing options.

To see the schedule of upcoming roundtables, click [HERE](#).



Iowa Workforce Development director Beth Townsend speaks

at a workforce roundtable Thursday, Oct. 21, at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny.

Inpatient bed-tracking study committee presented with draft report

During this legislative interim, hospitals as well as members of the IHA advocacy team participated in a legislatively-directed [inpatient bed-tracking study committee](#) to examine issues and develop policy recommendations to improve the inpatient psychiatric bed-tracking system.

The study committee met yesterday, Oct. 22, to review a draft report of its findings. The committee discussed what should be included in the final report and its recommendations. According to [Senate File 524](#), the recommendations must include:

- Expanding the acuity of disabilities hospitals can accept in their programs.
- Implementing enhancements to the bed-tracking system to accept and report real-time electronic data from participating entities.
- Increasing reimbursement rates based on the levels of care provided.

The committee will submit their final report by Wednesday, Dec. 15.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Children sick with COVID and other bugs flooded hospitals in the fall. Doctors worry what winter will bring.](#)
- [Coleman formally accepts Broadlawns president and CEO role](#)
- [Hy-Vee chief health officer named to national specialty pharmacy board](#)

National news

- [CDC expands booster rollout, OKs mixing shots](#)
- [COVID-19 numbers still high at St. Cloud Hospital but there is some good news](#)
- [Pfizer vaccine 91% effective in kids 5-11, study says](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [Making Your HVAC Systems Pandemic Ready with Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization](#): Oct. 26.
- [CMS Update on PAMA Lab Reporting Requirements. Who needs to report?:](#) Oct. 26
- [Workers' Compensation Conference](#): Oct. 27.
- [2021 Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals Physical Environment Update](#) Nov. 9.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Nov. 16
- [IHA Leadership Development Program](#): Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021 - Wednesday, April 6, 2022
- [Can't Pour From an Empty Cup: The Crisis in Nursing and Pandemic Care](#): Tuesday, Nov. 30

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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