

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [IDPH confirms three cases of COVID-19 variant in Iowa](#)
- [Physician Business Leadership Certificate Program accepting applications](#)
- [Button steps down as Regional Medical Center CEO](#)

IDPH confirms three cases of COVID-19 variant in Iowa

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has confirmed three cases of the COVID-19 variant SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7. in Iowa. It is believed that the variant, which was first detected in the United Kingdom, can spread more easily than the original strain of SARS-CoV-2. Current COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the variant strain.

Two of the three B.1.1.7 cases were detected in Johnson County and the third in Bremer County. IDPH and local public health departments have begun notifying anyone with whom these people have been in close contact.

The positive cases were identified by the State Hygienic Lab through routine analysis of genetic sequence data. The lab has been participating in the CDC's SARS-CoV-2 Strain Surveillance Program by sending COVID-19 test samples to be sequenced for the B.1.1.7 variant since early December. Lab staff recently began doing their own internal sequencing to look specifically for the variant. These three cases only represent the variant strains that are confirmed through genomic sequencing and may not accurately reflect the true number of variant cases.

Physician Business Leadership Certificate Program accepting applications

Providers today face an era of change unlike any before. Reform policies, shifting requirements and fiscal uncertainty create a chaotic atmosphere for professionals and providers. Strong leaders with innovative and focused decision-making abilities are required. The Physician Business Leadership Certificate Program will help Iowa physicians advance their leadership competencies and business acumen by providing the tools to become successful leaders in today's complex health care environment.

The program is designed for physicians with interest in leadership roles or growth in their existing leadership positions. The curriculum will focus on foundational leadership skills and hot topics. Session topics include crisis and grief leadership, behavioral health, DISC assessments and CEO-CMO partnerships.

The program's faculty are Tammy Chance, DO, Boone County Hospital and the IHA board, Brian Privett, MD, Iowa Eye Clinic and Iowa Medical Society board chair, and Tom Evans, MD, Iowa Healthcare Collaborative.

Education session dates are:

- Tuesday, Feb. 23
- Wednesday, March 17
- Wednesday, April 14
- Wednesday, June 9
- Tuesday, Aug. 10

Scholarship opportunities are provided by partnering organizations. **Physicians should submit their scholarship applications [HERE](#) by Wednesday, Feb. 10.**

Email questions to [Corey Martin](#) at IHA.



Button steps down as Regional Medical Center CEO

Charlie Button of Regional Medical Center in Manchester has resigned as CEO because of health challenges. Button joined Regional Medical Center in 2017. Under his leadership, the medical center added a new in-house MRI unit and expanded its family health services to Dyersville. Button also lead physician recruitment, the transition to a new EHR and renovation of the obstetrics department.

Chief Financial Officer Danette Kramer has been tapped as interim CEO.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [MercyOne celebrates second year as a unified health system](#)
- [IDPH says limited supply of vaccines available for Phase 1B](#)
- [Polk County officials address shortage of COVID-19 vaccines](#)

National news

- [Biden takes first step toward bolstering Obamacare](#)
- [Washington is awash in new and reintroduced telehealth bills](#)
- [Here's how Biden could help fix the rural health care crisis](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read all of NewsStand.

Upcoming events

- [COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund Update: Preparing for Upcoming Reporting Requirements and Audits](#): Tuesday, Feb. 2.
- [COVID-19 Diagnoses, Procedures and Telehealth](#): Thursday, Feb. 4.
- [Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 16.
- [COVID-19 and CEO Turnover: What's a Board to Do?](#): Wednesday, Feb. 17.
- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 23-Tuesday, Aug. 10.
- [Wage Index: Strategies and Trends in Iowa](#): Thursday, Feb. 25.
- [Iowa Rehabilitation Managers Virtual Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [Special Governance Issues for Public Hospitals](#): Wednesday, March 10
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, March 16.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 11- Tuesday, Nov. 16.



100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1835 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 |
WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe or to change your Subscription Preferences.