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Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [FDA authorizes J&J-Janssen vaccine, CDC offers webinar](#)
- [IHA issues state action alert about vaccine prohibition](#)
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New vaccine information –

FDA authorizes J&J-Janssen vaccine, CDC offers webinar

The Food and Drug Administration has authorized the emergency use of the COVID-19 vaccine co-developed by Johnson & Johnson and Janssen, paving the way for its immediate administration nationwide.

Details about the vaccine include:

- **Contraindications and adverse reactions** – The vaccine should not be administered to those with known histories of severe allergic reaction to any product component. Providers should ensure the availability of appropriate medical equipment to manage immediate allergic reactions that may occur in people who have just received the vaccine. Adverse reactions may include pain, swelling or erythema at the injection site, fatigue, headache, chills, fever and nausea.
- **Dosing** – The vaccine can be used in people 18 years or older. It is administered intramuscularly as a single dose. Each dose is 0.5 mL.
- **Dosing preparation** – The vaccine comes in a multidose vial, which contains a colorless-to-slightly yellow or opalescent suspension without preservative. If particulate matter or discoloration is found during visual inspection before administration, that dose should be discarded. Each multidose vial contains five doses. The vials must be thawed before administration. When thawed, the vial should be gently swirled, not shaken. The vial should be gently swirled again before each withdrawal for administration.
- **Storage and handling** – The vaccine should be stored unpunctured between 2-8 degrees C and protected from light. It can be stored for up to three months at this temperature range. Do not store frozen. Unpunctured vials can be stored unrefrigerated (between 9 and 25 degrees C) for up to 12 hours. Although the vaccine is stored frozen by the manufacturer, it is shipped between 2-8 degrees C. When received, the vaccine should be thawed and stored between 2-8 degrees C unless needed immediately. The vaccine should be thawed at room temperature if needed immediately. The vaccine should not be refrozen. After vial puncture, the date and time of first use should be recorded on the vial's label. After the first dose's withdrawal, the date and time should be recorded on the vial's label. Following each dose withdrawal, the vial should be stored between 2-8 degrees C for up to six hours or at room temperature (up to 25 degrees C) for up to two hours. Any unused product should be discarded if not used within these time limits.

CDC to host webinar about J&J Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

A webinar scheduled from **1-2 pm Tuesday, March 2**, will give clinicians an overview of the J&J Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. Physician leaders from the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices will provide detailed information about this new vaccine. Discussion topics include:

- Contraindications.
- The vaccine's characteristics and administration.
- Vaccinating special populations.

Click [HERE](#) to register. Passcode is 893944.

IHA issues state action alert about vaccine prohibition

[Legislation prohibiting employers and health care entities from requiring employees and patients to receive a vaccine](#) is scheduled to be reviewed by the Senate Human Resources Committee Tuesday, March 2. This legislation also would allow affected employees and patients to seek injunctive relief and damages when they are required to receive a vaccine.

Iowa hospitals are responsible for the health and safety of patients, employees and the community. Part of this responsibility means ensuring that communicable diseases are not passed to patients and employees or spread to the community at large. This bill would remove the flexibilities that hospitals need to make decisions about how to address their response to communicable disease by mandating a prohibition on vaccines.

State senators need to hear from you now. Reach out to ask them to vote no on this legislation. **Click [HERE](#) to take action.**

After reaching out to your senator, please share any responses with [Erin Cubit](#) at IHA.



Webinar looks at COVID-19 from physician's perspective

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly altered the health care industry and nearly every other aspect of the economy and life. It has hit physicians particularly hard, affecting them financially, physically and emotionally. [COVID-19: A Physician's Perspective](#) will explore how physicians have been affected by and are responding to COVID-19. It will include original data from three national physician surveys conducted by Merritt Hawkins for The Physicians Foundation. The surveys address how the coronavirus has affected physicians, their practices and their patients.

The webinar is scheduled from **10-11 am Thursday, March 4**. Click [HERE](#) to register.



Keokuk hospital joins Blessing Health System

Monday, March 1, the hospital in Keokuk officially changed ownership to the Quincy, Illinois-based Blessing Health System. Previously part of the UnityPoint Health system for the last three years, the hospital is now Blessing Health Keokuk.

“We’re committed to investing in Keokuk’s health care infrastructure to revitalize the community and the region to benefit everyone,” said Maureen Kahn, president and CEO of Blessing Health System and Blessing Hospital. “We’re focused on enhancing and expanding services, so the hospital is better positioned to offer essential care the community needs. We’re the right partner at the right time for southeast Iowa residents.”

A significant step will be reopening the Keokuk Medical Clinic, which closed two years ago and will be renamed Blessing Health Keokuk Clinic. Specialty services offered at the clinic will include cardiology, orthopedics, women’s care, behavioral health and occupational health.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [UnityPoint Health-Trinity announces Medicine in the Barbershop](#)
- [Iowa farmers continue to face mental health challenges](#)
- [COVID-19 cases decline among vaccinated health care workers](#)

National news

- [4 million J&J COVID-19 vaccines ship out](#)
- [People who've had COVID-19 might only need one dose of vaccine](#)
- [The coronavirus is threatening a comeback. Here's how to stop it.](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [Iowa Rehabilitation Managers Virtual Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 4.

- [COVID-19: A Physician's Perspective](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [IHA Crisis Management Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, March 9-Tuesday, April 6.
- [Special Governance Issues for Public Hospitals](#): Wednesday, March 10
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, March 16.
- [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#): Wednesday, March 24-Thursday, March 25.
- [Iowa Hospitals' Innovation During COVID-19](#): Tuesday, March 30-Thursday, April 1.
- [Special Governance Issues for Public Hospitals](#): Tuesday, March 30
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: EMTALA Parts 1-3](#): Monday, April 5-Monday, April 19.
- [Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality Virtual Spring Conference](#): Tuesday, April 13-Thursday, April 15.
- [IHA Virtual Governance Forum](#): Thursday, April 22-Friday, April 23.
- [Iowa Society for Health Care Human Resources Association Virtual Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 28-Thursday, April 29.
- [Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, May 11-Tuesday, Nov. 16.
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, June 22.



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