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Saturday, Oct. 22, 2022

## Today's Headlines

- [IHA advocacy team round up](#)
- [Review PHE waivers and flexibilities in new webinar](#)
- [Thank you to the 2022 Iowa Hospital Heroes](#)
- [Technical assistance available for hospitals exploring REH](#)
- [IDPH moves to monthly monovalent COVID-19 allocation schedule](#)

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### IHA advocacy team round up

The IHA advocacy team is continuing its work with the psychiatric intensive care work group. The group is in the rulemaking process and continues discussions about reimbursement. The state will host webinars for providers and claims processors further in the process.

This week, the advocacy team also:

- Discussed IHA's 2023 legislative priorities with Rep. Steven Bradley (R-Cascade). Bradley is the vice chair for the House Human Resources Committee.
- Met with IHA's Medicaid financing work group.
- Attended the Medicaid Matters Coalition and Mental Health and Disability Services Commission meetings.

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### Review PHE waivers and flexibilities in new webinar

The COVID-19 [public health emergency was extended](#) another 90 days on Thursday, Oct. 13, but it's anticipated to end in January. With the possible termination of the public health emergency, certain federal and state laws and government agency enforcement discretion waivers also may expire.

To help hospitals prepare, Dorsey and Whitney will address blanket waivers issued for hospitals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and which waivers the government may extend. Dorsey and Whitney attorneys also will discuss:

- Conditions of participation.
- Telehealth waivers.
- Steps for hospitals to take to prepare for the end of the public health emergency.

The [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency webinar](#) is scheduled from 2-3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1.

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### Thank you to the 2022 Iowa Hospital Heroes

IHA and Iowa hospitals are grateful to our hospital staff who ensure hospitals provide quality care every day. Twelve hospital heroes were recognized at IHA's 2022 Annual Meeting, and each is being highlighted in IHA Today. This issue features Dave Eilers from [MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center](#). Thank you to all the 2022 heroes and hospital staff for your work and compassion.

If you have someone you want to [nominate as a hospital hero](#), take note for next year's recognition at the 2023 IHA Annual Meeting scheduled from Oct. 10-11. [Email Craig Borchard](#) at IHA with questions.

## Dave Eilers

Dave joined MercyOne in 1993 as a technical consultant and has since held various leadership positions in the Clinical Laboratory and Performance Excellence Department. While working as a Six Sigma Black Belt, he improved patient flow for emergency departments by creating the Split Flow area, which is a process still used today. He has improved inpatient outcomes the past three years through focused attention on documentation and discharge communication for patients by creating a standard work flow for hourly rounds and bedside nurse handoffs. Dave is a crucial team member for The Joint Commission and Department of Inspections and Appeals visits, findings and follow-up responses.



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### Technical assistance available for hospitals exploring REH

The [Rural Health Redesign Center](#) was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide technical assistance to rural hospitals in making informed decisions about the rural emergency hospital designation.

Interested hospitals will receive support, engagement and education about:

- Assessing the feasibility of a rural emergency hospital conversion.
- Completing the application process for conversion.
- Identifying alternative ways to meet community needs.
- Strategically planning for conversion.

[Email the Rural Health Redesign Center](#) with questions.

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### IDPH moves to monthly monovalent COVID-19 allocation schedule

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration approved the [Novavax monovalent COVID-19 booster](#) for people 18 and older. The Novavax vaccine targets the original COVID-19 strain.

Novavax is available for adults who:

- Cannot or will not receive an updated mRNA booster.
- Completed their primary vaccine series.
- Have not previously received a COVID-19 booster.

Also this week, the Iowa Department of Public Health began transitioning to a monthly COVID-19 vaccine allocation for monovalent COVID-19 vaccines. IDPH reminds providers that monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are not authorized as booster doses for people 5 and older.

IDPH is incorporating bivalent COVID-19 vaccine allocations and surveys into the monthly vaccine-ordering schedule as much as possible.

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## NewsStand

### Iowa news

- [New COVID-19 cases decline in Iowa for 7th consecutive week](#)
- [Hy-Vee providing free Medicare plan comparisons](#)
- [MercyOne says it has begun restoring systems following ransomware attack](#)

### National news

- [New COVID-19 variants are gaining ground in the U.S.](#)
  - [FDA recommends revoking approval of controversial drug for preterm births](#)
  - [No rating fallout from CommonSpirit cyberattack](#)
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### Online education

- [Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, Nov. 8
- [Health Care: Embracing Environmental, Social and Governance Issues](#): Wednesday, Nov. 9
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Getting Ready for Joint Commission and CMS Health Equity Requirements](#): Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Patient Rights: An Overview](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29
- [COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#): Thursday, Dec. 1
- [Pharmacy Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, Dec. 6
- [CMS Updates](#): Thursday, Dec. 15

### In-person meetings

- [Performance and Process Improvement - Leadership "Yellow Belt" Workshop](#): Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Wednesday, Oct. 19
- [Charge Nurse Leadership Development Workshop](#): Monday, Oct. 24 - Tuesday, Oct. 25
- [Administrative Professionals Conference](#): Tuesday, Nov. 1
- [340B Day](#): Tuesday, Nov. 8
- [IHA Leadership Development Program](#): Wednesday, Nov. 16 - Tuesday, May 16
- [2022 CPHQ Review Course](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29 - Wednesday, Nov. 30

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## Visit IHA's Digital on Demand store for webinars and videos

Members are encouraged to visit IHA's Digital on Demand store to catch up on webinars or informational videos they may have missed.

The IHA Digital on Demand store offers:

- [Demonstration and training videos](#) for DataGen, DATABANK and Dimensions dashboards.
- [CEO podcasts](#).
- Previously recorded [webinars and presentations](#) including project presentations from the Advanced Leadership Academy.
- [Trustee resources](#).

Click [HERE](#) to visit the IHA Digital on Demand store.

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## 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.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.

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