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Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022

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Week 2 summary

The second week of the legislative session was a shortened because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Legislators did little floor work this week and focused on committee and subcommittee meetings. As the session progresses, bills will move fast. To ensure you receive the latest updates, IHA encourages you to sign up for [Action Alerts](#).

Legislation on the move

Tort reform

Gov. Kim Reynolds listed medical malpractice reform as a priority in her Condition of the State address. IHA is anticipating a bill on this topic and hoping to see language soon. When introduced, IHA expects the bill to move quickly through the legislative process. IHA encourages you to contact your legislators and voice your support for tort reform.

Introduced bills

Dozens of bills were introduced, and subcommittees met during the second week of the legislative session. Below is an overview of bills introduced by legislators that affect hospitals. [Click here](#) to view a complete list of legislation IHA is following.

Workforce

- **Last Dollar Scholarship Fund** – House Study Bill 541 and companion bill Senate Study Bill 3046 allow part-time students in certain fields, including health care, to qualify for the Last Dollar Scholarship Fund administered by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. IHA supports this legislation.
- **Psychiatric residencies** - House Study Bill 532 requires the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to administer a psychiatric residency program at the Cherokee and Independence mental health institutions and at the Oakdale Classification Center. The bill establishes a fund for the program with 12 positions and gives preference to Iowans who attended college or medical school in Iowa. IHA supports this legislation.
- **Mental health professional loan-repayment program** – House Study Bill 537 creates a new prescribing mental health practitioner loan-repayment program to provide loan repayment for prescribing mental health practitioners who agree to practice in designated areas for at least five years. An eligible student must complete an Iowa-based residency and priority is given to Iowa residents who apply for the program. IHA supports this bill.

Medicaid

- **Medicaid eligibility and verification** – Work on the Medicaid eligibility and verification package continued this week. Several bills for Medicaid eligibility and verification were introduced. A subcommittee reviewed House Study Bill 502 Tuesday. The bill requires the Department of Human Services to redesign or establish a new system for verifying eligibility for public assistance internally or through a third-party contract. The subcommittee tabled work on this bill and

did not pass it out to a full committee. The subcommittee will revisit the bill in the future. A subcommittee reviewed and advanced House Study Bill 504 last Thursday. HSB 504 requires public assistance applicants to complete a computerized identification-authentication process. Lastly, a bill about public assistance program case reviews, House Study Bill 515, was discussed during a subcommittee and voted down.

- **Iowa Health and Wellness Plan** – A bill about reenrollment following termination from the Iowa Health and Wellness plan, House Study Bill 506, was reviewed in a subcommittee Thursday. Like HSB 502, the bill was tabled and was not passed out to a full committee. The subcommittee will revisit the bill in the future.

Behavioral health

- **Tiered psychiatric reimbursements** – House Study Bill 530 requires the Department of Human Services to implement a tiered reimbursement methodology for Medicaid psychiatric inpatient care based on the patient's acuity and other factors identified by the Inpatient Bed Tracking System Study Committee, of which IHA and Iowa hospitals were members. Through meeting with legislators, IHA learned the Senate may introduce their own proposal on this topic. IHA supports this legislation.

COVID-19 bills

Several bills about COVID-19 were introduced. None of the bills were reviewed in a subcommittee and it is unclear if any of them have a path to passage.

- **COVID immunity proof** – House File 2034 and Senate File 2030 would require any entity that requires proof of a COVID-19 vaccination to accept proof of COVID-19 immunity, through a positive COVID-19 test or a test confirming the presence of COVID-19 antibodies, in the last three months.
- **COVID-19 testing** – House File 2036 would require any business requiring COVID-19 testing as an alternative to staff vaccination to pay all costs related to the test, including paying the employee for time away from work. The bill also would prohibit requiring employees to get tested outside normal work hours.
- **COVID-19 and hospitals** – Senate Study Bill 3035 would exempt a health care facility from the certificate-of-need process if the facility will be developed in a county where the hospital requires employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- **COVID-19 vaccination incentives** – Senate Study Bill 3037 would disallow a health insurer or public employee health care plan from providing incentives to a provider for meeting COVID-19 vaccination goals or imposing penalties on providers for not meeting vaccination goals.





Legislative forums scheduled

Meeting with legislators while they're in their home districts is a great way to inform them on issues hospital advocates care about. Check the list below of legislative events for the next two weeks. Some are in person, and those that are virtual include the event link.

Saturday, Jan 22

- 8:30-9:30 a.m., Oskaloosa Eggs and Issues, Smokey Row Coffee.
- 9-10:30 a.m., Spencer Legislative Forum, Spencer City Hall – Council Chambers.
- 9-10 a.m., Arlington Town Hall, Arlington Community Event Center.
- 9:30-11:30 a.m., Virtual Johnson County Legislative Forum, [Virtual Link](#).
- 10-11 a.m., Waverly Legislative Town Hall, Waverly City Library.
- 10-11 a.m., Clarinda Legislative Briefing, Clarinda Lied Public Library.
- 11 a.m.-noon, Okoboji Eggs and Issues Forum, Tweeters.

Monday, Jan 24

- 8:30-10:30 a.m., Marti's Monday Morning Coffee, Grounds for Celebration.

Thursday, Jan. 28

- Noon-1:30 p.m., Council Bluffs Legislative Roundtable, Council Bluffs Public Library.

Saturday, Jan 29

- 7:30-9 a.m., Fairfield Legislative Forum, Fairfield Arts & Convention Center.
- 8-9:30 a.m., Rock Rapids Eggs and Issues Forum, Forster Community Center.
- 8:30-10 a.m., Fort Dodge Eggs & Issues Legislative Forum, Iowa Central Community College-BHS Auditorium.
- 9-10 a.m., Sumner Legislative Town Hall, Sumner Public Library.
- 9-10:30 a.m., Clinton Legislative Coffee, Grow Clinton.
- 10:30 a.m.-noon, Urbandale Virtual Talk with Officials, [Virtual Link](#).
- 11 a.m.-noon, Readlyn Legislative Town Hall, Readlyn Community Library.
- 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., DeWitt Legislative Coffee, DeWitt Community Center.

Friday, Feb 4

- Noon-1 p.m., Ames Legislative Update, [Virtual Link](#).

Saturday, Feb. 5

- 8:30-10 a.m., Emmetsburg Eggs & Issues Forum, Emmetsburg Chamber of Tourism Office.
- 9-10 a.m., Denver Legislative Town Hall, Denver Community Center.
- 11 a.m.-noon, Dunkerton Legislative Town Hall, Dunkerton Public Library.

How to stay in the know

Through the 2022 legislative session, IHA has different ways to keep you informed. Stay tuned through the weekly editions of Legislative Bulletin, biweekly Capitol Update, IHA's Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account. IHA also will mobilize hospital advocates through VoterVoice Action Alerts when legislators need to hear from you on hospital issues. Advocates can sign up for email or text message VoterVoice Action Alerts [HERE](#).

Remember to bookmark these links:

- [Facebook page](#)
- [IHA's bill tracker](#)
- [Legislator contact information](#)
- [LinkedIn account](#)
- [Twitter account](#)

Webinar series to focus on antibiotic stewardship

The Iowa Healthcare Collaborative and the Iowa Department of Public Health will host the Antibiotics Steward Series, which is aimed at improving antibiotic prescribing by clinicians and use by patients. The first webinar in the series, Using the Core Elements to Promote Innovation, will feature Brian Isetts, RPh, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Isetts will discuss:

- Antibiotic stewardship care elements.
- Best practices of stewardship through hospital sharing.
- Accomplishments of successful implementation.

The series will be comprised of four sessions and one coaching session scheduled from 11 a.m.-noon on:

- Monday, Jan. 31 – Leadership Commitment and Accountability.
- Monday, Feb. 14 – Coaching session.
- Monday, Feb. 28 – Drug Expertise and Action.
- Monday, March 21 - Tracking, Reporting and Education.
- Monday, April 25 – Review of Accomplishments.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

CMS to host forum about balance billing in No Surprises Act

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will take a deep dive into the balance billing provisions of the No Surprises Act during its next Open Door Forum scheduled from noon-1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The forum is a conference call. To participate:

- Dial 888-455-1397.
- Use reference conference passcode 5109694.

TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the hearing impaired. For TTY services dial 711 or 800-855-2880. A relay communications assistant will help.

Participants are asked to call in 15 minutes before the call start time.

Email questions ahead of the call to Provider_Enforcement@cms.hhs.gov with the subject line "Questions for 1/26 Open Door Forum."

Click [HERE](#) for the presentation deck.

Remember to complete AHA DEI survey by Feb. 28

The American Hospital Association and its Institute for Diversity and Health Equity have launched the 2022 Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Survey. The survey is a key tool for identifying trends shaping health equity efforts and will be a resource for policymakers, academic researchers, health care thought leaders and other important stakeholders.

The deadline to complete the survey is Monday, Feb. 28.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) for the survey.

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Gov. Kim Reynolds recently reaffirmed January to be Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. IHA also joined the Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking Coalition to help lower human trafficking numbers in Iowa. Members will have access to resources and training to help identify victims.

IHA members are encouraged to visit [Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking](#) to learn more about ways to help.

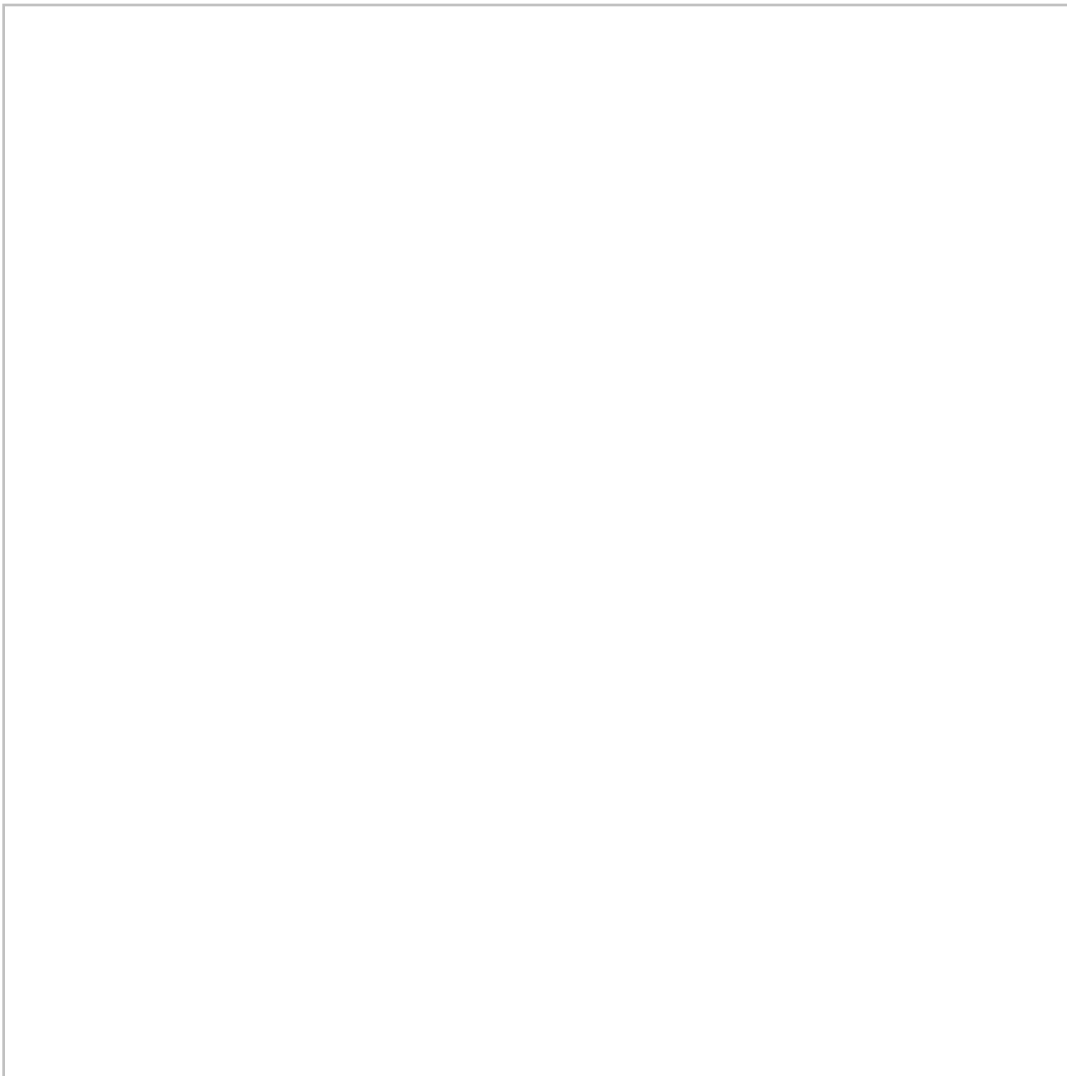
The American Hospital Association also released a digital toolkit in recognition of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The toolkit includes graphics and videos to help health care providers fight human trafficking in their communities.

Click [HERE](#) for the digital toolkit.

IHA members voted most influential in Des Moines

The Des Moines Business Record recently released its 2022 [25 Most Influential Nonprofits](#) and [25 Most Influential Business Leaders](#) lists. Members of IHA were named to the lists. [ChildServe](#), Johnston, was ranked the sixth most influential nonprofit in the Des Moines metro. David Stark, chief executive officer of [UnityPoint Health-Iowa Methodist Medical Center](#), was ranked the 18th most influential business leader in the Des Moines metro.

The Business Record conducted online surveys of its readers in 2021 asking them who they thought were the most influential leaders and nonprofits. The lists appear in the Business Records 2022 Book of Lists.



Pfizer Tris COVID-19 vaccine available in Iowa

Pfizer Tris, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for people 12 years and older, is available to health care providers. This formulation has a distinctive grey cap and:

- Does not require diluent.
- Is available in smaller 300-dose configurations.
- May be stored at 2-8 degrees C for up to 10 weeks.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine with the purple cap was retired Dec. 31, 2021. Health care providers should use existing Pfizer formulations (1170- and 450-dose packs) to the greatest extent possible.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [MercyOne Richard Deming Cancer](#)

National news

- [Some states are still pushing outdated COVID-19 treatments](#)

- Center opens
- [State officials and health experts are concerned over rise in fentanyl-related overdose deaths](#)
 - [How two Iowa respiratory therapists weather the crush of COVID-19](#)
 - [Why don't hospitals just pay full-time nurses more?](#)
 - [Is omicron really less severe? ICUs more slammed than ever](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [Navigating the Legal Uncertainty of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in the Health Care Workplace](#): Tuesday, Jan. 25
- [Abuse, Restraints and Seclusion Regulations](#): Thursday, Jan. 27
- [Grant Writing Workshop](#): Tuesday, Feb. 1
- [Critical Access Hospitals' Commonly Cited Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, Feb. 8
- [National Health Care Safety Network Basic Training](#): Thursday, Feb. 10
- [Update on Ligature Risks and Suicide Prevention](#): Thursday, Feb. 17
- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 22 - Tuesday, Aug. 9
- [The Intersection of DEA, Opioids and Hospital Risk](#): Tuesday, Feb. 22
- [2022 Virtual Hospital Day on the Hill](#): Wednesday, Feb. 23
- [Advanced Leadership Academy](#): Wednesday, March 2 - Tuesday, Sept. 20
- [Iowa Rehab Managers Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 3
- [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum](#): Wednesday, March 23
- [Understanding Hospital Board and Medical Staff Responsibilities Under Medicare COPs](#): Tuesday, April 12
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration Spring Conference](#): Thursday, April 14

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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