Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022

Today's headlines:

- COVID-19 tele-tracking to transition from IDPH to HHS Feb. 19
- U.S. House votes to fund government through March 11, goes to Senate
- LockBit 2.0 ransomware potential threat to hospitals
- Thank you to our hospital advocates
- Registration open for The Art of the Interview webinar
- Learn to develop and implement workplace violence programs

COVID-19 tele-tracking to transition from IDPH to HHS Feb. 19

The Iowa Department of Public Health will no longer report COVID-19 data to the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of Iowa hospitals for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services compliance after Feb. 18. This is due to the [state proclamation of disaster emergency expiring](#) Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Starting Feb. 19, hospitals will be required to submit data directly to HHS through the COVID-19 Tele-tracking portal. To get an account and users set up with HHS Tele-tracking:

- **Call technical support at 877-570-6309**. Live agents are available from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Callers after 6 p.m. should leave a voicemail and will receive a call back.
- **Email HHS Tele-tracking at hhs-protect@teletracking.com**.

When contacting HHS for the first time, primary users should request to be labeled as the primary owner for the hospital. The primary owner designation will allow them to assign more users from the hospital and manage the hospital's account and contacts in the future. If users email HHS Tele-tracking to request access, they must provide the hospital user contact information and hospital name for access.

For ease of reporting, hospitals can request an API feed directly with HHS Tele-tracking. API requests must be sent through the email above, not the technical

support telephone number.

HHS said access requests are generally created the same day as the request. IDPH requested training webinars and additional resources and will notify Iowa hospitals when they are available.

Click HERE to read more.

U.S. House votes to fund government through March 11, goes to Senate

The U.S. House of Representatives coted 272-162 to pass a continuing resolution to fund federal programs through March 11. The continuing resolution would prevent a government shutdown when the current continuing resolution expires Feb. 18.

The legislation would extend through March 11 the current federal medical assistance percentage for certain territories among other provisions. The Senate could consider the continuing resolution soon.

Congress continues to negotiate overall funding levels for an omnibus funding bill for the rest of fiscal year 2022.

LockBit 2.0 ransomware potential threat to hospitals

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Health and Human Services issued an alert to hospitals about a potential ransomware threat. HHS said the ransomware group LockBit poses significant cyberthreats to the health care industry, despite the group's claims it does not attack health care organizations.

The FBI said ransomware LockBit 2.0 uses purchased access, unpatched vulnerabilities, insider access and zero-day exploits. Health care organizations are encouraged to reduce the possibility of these attacks by using:

- A strong data backup program.
- Multifactor authentication.
- Strong passwords.
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's cyber-hygiene services.
- The FBI's indicators of compromise in their threat detection programs.
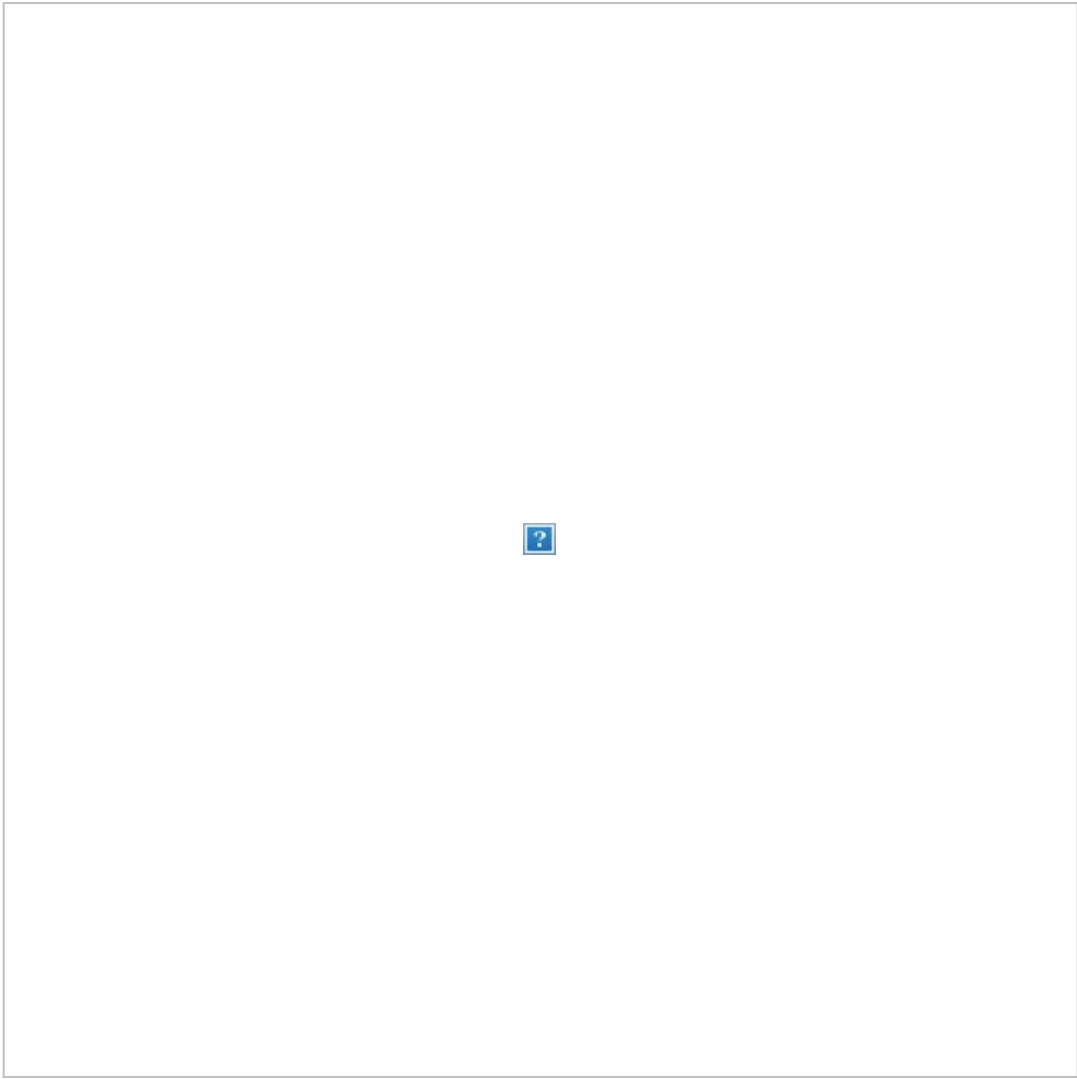
Click HERE to read more.

Thank you to our hospital advocates

IHA would like to thank our advocates for their work so far this legislative session. On Tuesday, Feb. 8, IHA members attended two senate subcommittee meetings to give testimony and encourage legislators to support positive hospital policy.

Kevin Kincaid, CEO of Knoxville Hospital and Clinics, attended the subcommittee meeting about tort reform where he spoke in support of hard caps on noneconomic damages.

CEO of [Pella Regional Health Center](#) and [IHA Board of Officers and Trustees](#) President Bob Kroese, Kincaid, [Boone County Hospital](#) CEO Joe Smith, [UnityPoint-Des Moines](#) CEO David Stark, [Henry County Health Center](#) CEO Robb Gardner and [Montgomery County Memorial Hospital](#) CEO Ron Kloewer spoke at a subcommittee meeting in support of upholding Iowa's [certificate-of-need law](#).

Sign up [HERE](#) to become a hospital advocate and receive action alerts.

Registration open for The Art of the Interview webinar
Hiring well-prepared and well-suited staff is one way to keep positions filled at hospitals and health systems. In The Art of the Interview webinar, human resource professionals and health care staff involved in the hiring process will learn to use the interview to predict how someone will perform and if a potential candidate will be a good fit.

Toni Boyles, chief encouraging officer at A Place in Time Training, will discuss techniques that can be used during an employment interview including:

- Behavior questions that can be asked for a specific position description.
- How to become the employer of choice by candidates.
- Key strategies to use.

The Art of the Interview is scheduled from 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, March 8.

Click HERE to register.

Learn to develop and implement workplace violence programs

Hospitals and outpatient clinics will learn to develop, implement and evaluate effective and sustainable workplace violence programs during IHA's 2022 Workplace Violence Workshop.

Lynda Enos, ergonomics consultant for HumanFIt, worked with five hospitals in Oregon to develop comprehensive workplace violence programs. She will share her experience and practical information during this six-session workshop.
In each session, participants will discuss:

- Course agenda, goals and background – June 30.
- Creating culture, lessons learned, assessing readiness and defining need – July 14.
- Committee and program management, gap analysis, staff surveys and safety and security assessment – July 21.
- Overview of evidence-based engineering, work practice and administrative controls – July 28.
- Communications and social marketing plan, education and training for staff and other stakeholder and policy and plan finalization – Aug. 4.
- Implementing and evaluating plans, measuring outcomes, processing activities and procedures, tips for program sustainability – Aug. 18.

Each virtual session is scheduled from 2-3:30 p.m. on Thursdays.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [MercyOne virtual nurses visit patients by video in their rooms](#)
- [Western Iowa providers struggle to bring timely mental health care amid staffing shortage](#)
- [Steindler Orthopedic partnering with Mercy Iowa City on medical park](#)

National news

- [Johnson and Johnson pauses production of its COVID-19 vaccine despite persistent need](#)
- [You're more likely to die from COVID-19 in the U.S. than other high-income countries](#)
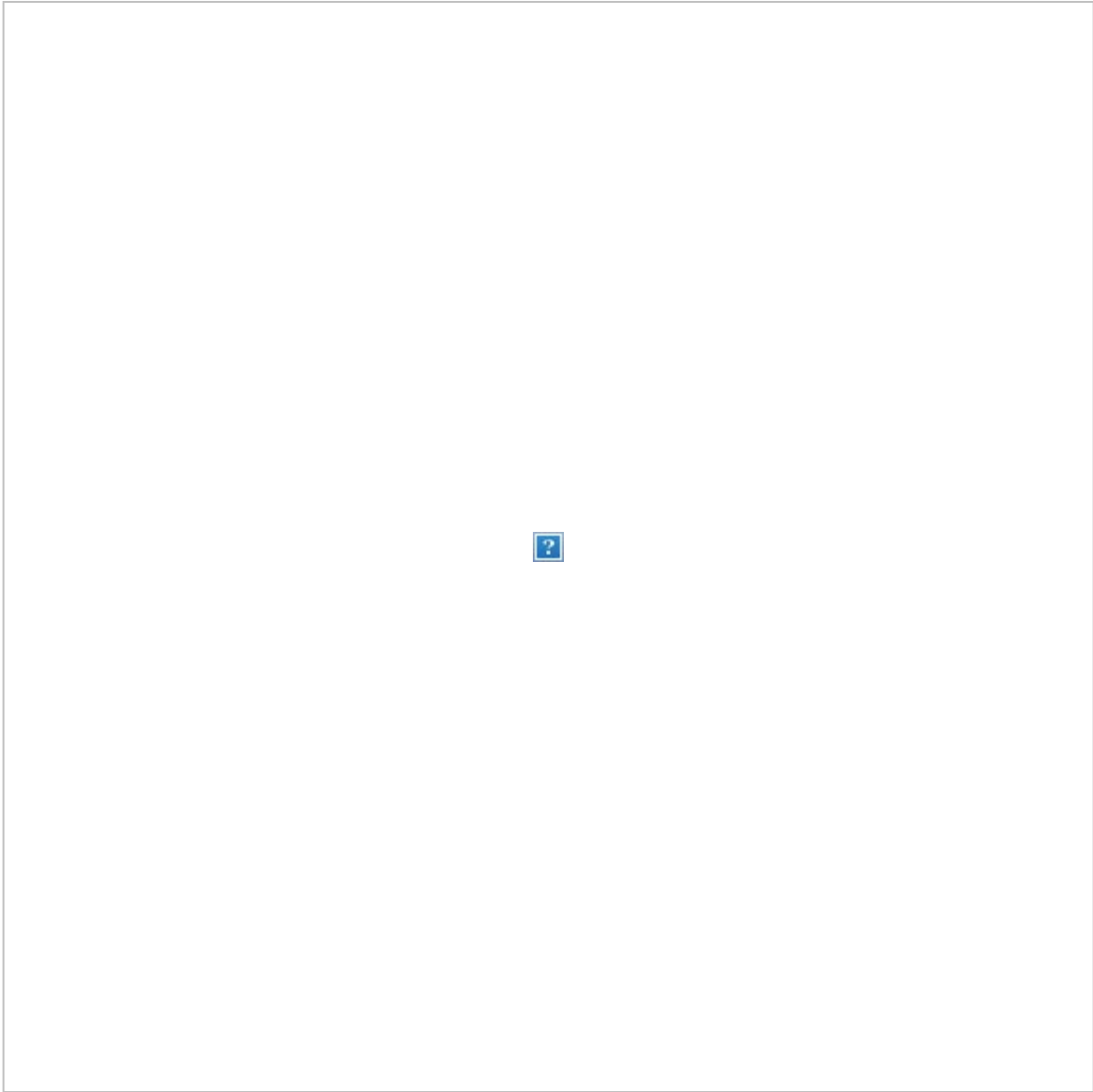- [Will one-way masking stop COVID-19 spread?](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [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
- [Housing as Health Care: Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Real Estate](#): Tuesday, Feb. 22
- [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
- [The No Surprise Act is Here: Compliance Obligations and Strategic Planning for Hospitals](#): Wednesday, March 2 - Wednesday, March 9
- [Iowa Rehab Managers Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 3
- [The Art of the Interview](#): Tuesday, March 8
- [Iowa Hospital Auxilian and Volunteer Conference](#): Wednesday, March 9
- [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
- [IHA Governance Forum](#): Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23
- [Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) Series](#): Wednesday, May 11 - Wednesday, May 25
- [Workplace Violence Program Workshop](#): Thursday, June 30 - Thursday, Aug. 18

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.