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Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022

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First funnel week of 2022 legislative session kicks off

This week is the first funnel week in the Iowa legislature. Funnel weeks are self-imposed deadlines set by the legislature to usher bills through the legislative process to keep session on track. Several bills IHA follows are funnel-proof and do not need

to pass committee. IHA's advocacy team continues to monitor bills to ensure IHA's legislative priorities are going forward.

The IHA advocacy team will release a special Capitol Update video in the Tuesday, Feb. 22, edition of IHA Today with a breakdown of the first funnel week.

Email [Erin Cubit](#) with questions.



CMS vaccine mandate enforcement begins

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [COVID-19 vaccine mandate](#) began Monday, Feb. 14, for 24 states, including Iowa. Per CMS, health care staff in the 24 states covered by the Jan. 13 Supreme Court decision to uphold the mandate must ensure staff have:

- A pending request for an exemption.
- Been granted a qualifying exemption.
- Been identified as having a temporary delay as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Received at least one shot.

The 24 states must ensure employees are fully vaccinated by March 15.

HHS Tele-tracking demo recording available

The Department of Health and Human Services released a demonstration and training video for its COVID-19 Tele-tracking portal. The Iowa Department of Public Health will no longer report COVID-19 data to HHS on behalf of Iowa hospitals after Feb. 18. Iowa hospitals must then start self-reporting using the HHS Tele-tracking portal.

To get an account and set up users with HHS Tele-tracking:

- **Call technical support at 877-570-6309.** 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. 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.

To watch the demonstration and training video, click [HERE](#).

CDC updates COVID-19 guidance for moderately or severely immunocompromised people

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated and clarified its COVID-19 vaccination guidance to ensure moderately or severely immunocompromised people have optimal protection against SARS-CoV-2.

Updates include:

- Allowing people who received the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine primary series to receive an additional dose and a booster dose, for a total of three doses, to be considered up to date.
- Clarifying the existing recommendation to receive a three-dose mRNA vaccine primary series followed by a booster dose for a total of four doses.
- Shortening the time between completing the primary three-dose vaccine series and booster dose to three months instead of five.

The CDC also released an FAQ about the booster dose recommendations.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Submit questions for HHS virtual office hours

The Department of Health and Human Services Region 7 will host virtual office hours

for partners and stakeholders to connect with HHS leadership and subject matter experts. Participants are encouraged to submit questions before the virtual session.

Participant will have an opportunity to:

- Get answers to program and resource questions.
- Request technical assistance and training.
- Share data about emergent local, state and regional health care issues and trends.

Federal agencies also will give program updates followed by a question-and-answer session. Agencies scheduled to attend are:

- Administration for Children and Families.
- Administration for Community Living.
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- Health Resources and Services Administration.
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

The virtual office hours are scheduled from 9-9:45 a.m. Wednesday, March 2.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Email questions to [Catherine Satterwhite](#) with HHS by Monday, Feb. 28.

CMS delays hospital star ratings until July

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced it will delay updating the overall hospital quality star ratings on the Care Compare website until July 4. The delay is to fix a calculation error in the calendar year 2021 results for the OP-10 outpatient imaging efficiency measure. CMS does not expect the recalculation to affect 2022 payment determinations.

Hospitals do not need to submit new data or complete additional actions for the recalculation. Hospitals can preview their updated ratings this spring in their facility-specific reports.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Iowa hospitals named in top 100 rural and critical access hospitals list

The Chartis Center for Rural Health released its annual top 100 rural and community hospitals and top 100 critical access hospitals in the U.S. Among the rural and community hospitals were:

- [Lakes Regional Healthcare](#), Spirit Lake.
- [Spencer Hospital](#), Spencer.
- [St. Anthony Regional Hospital](#), Carroll.

Nineteen Iowa hospitals were designated in the top 100 critical access hospital list:

- [Audubon County Memorial Hospital](#), Audubon.
- [Avera Holy Family Hospital](#), Estherville.
- [Cass County Memorial Hospital](#), Atlantic.
- [Clarke County Hospital](#), Osceola.
- [Floyd Valley Healthcare](#), Le Mars.
- [Greater Regional Medical Center](#), Creston.
- [Guthrie County Hospital](#), Guthrie Center.
- [Hansen Family Hospital](#), Iowa Falls.
- [Knoxville Hospital & Clinics](#), Knoxville.
- [Kossuth Regional Health Center](#), Algona.
- [Loring Hospital](#), Sac City.
- [Myrtue Medical Center](#), Harlan.
- [Orange City Area Health System](#), Orange City.
- [Pella Regional Health Center](#), Pella.
- [Ringgold County Hospital](#), Mount Ayr.
- [Sioux Center Health](#), Sioux Center.
- [UnityPoint Health-Grundy County Memorial Hospital](#), Grundy Center.
- [UnityPoint Health-Jones Regional Medical Center](#), Anamosa.
- [Washington County Hospital and Clinics](#), Washington.

The Chartis Center used the hospital strength index to determine the 2022 lists. Inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality outcomes, patient perspective, cost, charge and financial efficiency were assessed.

Click [HERE](#) for the top 100 rural and community hospital list.

Click [HERE](#) for the top 100 critical access hospital list.

COPIC publishes Minors and Risk booklet

[COPIC](#), a medical liability insurance provider, published Minors and Risk, a booklet designed to address issues that may affect children. The booklet will help health care providers gain a basic understanding of the legal and regulatory landscape when treating young patients. Topics include:

- Divorced parents, custody disputes and parental access to medical records.
- Reporting child abuse or children who have been affected by sexual assault.
- Scenarios in which minors can consent to care without parental consent.
- Treating minors with sexually transmitted infections or a substance abuse disorder.

Click [HERE](#) to read the booklet.

Email [Fred Singbush](#), [Anne MacFarland](#) or [Cameron James](#) at COPIC with questions.

[AssuredPartners](#), a ServiShare-endorsed partner, teamed with COPIC to provide medical liability insurance to help hospitals manage the changing demands of health care.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Inside a daughter's fear, doubt and heartbreaking choices as her father battles serious COVID-19](#)
- [As data reporting halts, outbreaks in Iowa nursing homes continue to climb](#)
- [COVID-19 is still an emergency in Iowa](#)

National news

- [Omicron subvariant's spread stalls in U.S.](#)
- [Skirmish between Biden and red states over Medicaid leaves enrollees in the balance](#)
- [Federal vaccination mandate begins for health care workers in 24 states](#)

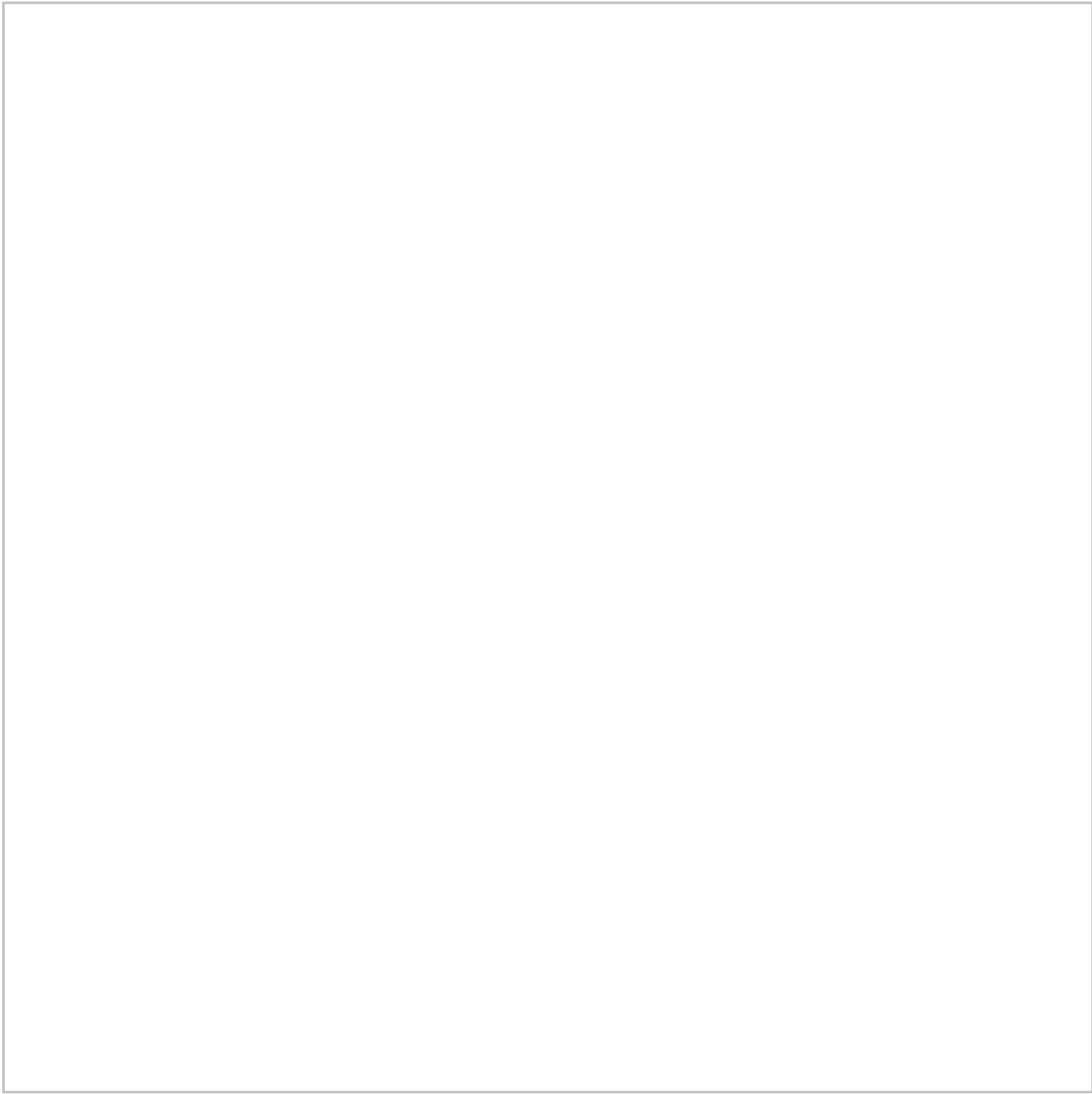
Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [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](https://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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