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Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022

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Workforce issues, Medicaid reimbursement main topics at 2022 virtual Hospital Day on the Hill

State Sens. [Jeff Edler](#), R-State Center, and [Liz Mathis](#), D-Hiawatha, and Rep. [Beth Wessel-Kroeschell](#), D-Ames, spoke about their health care priorities for the 2022 legislative session. Workforce issues and Medicaid reimbursement rates topped their lists.

Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell said workforce is her top issue, saying besides nurse and psychiatrist shortages, Iowa needs to work on recruiting more physical and occupational therapists. Sen. Mathis echoed the sentiments.

IHA members asked if there will be any movement on increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates this session. Sen. Edler said the Senate is discussing rates and he anticipates it could be three weeks before any rate increases are announced. In the House, Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell said there is enough money in the budget to make a difference and she is hopeful an increase will happen.

IHA President and CEO Chris Mitchell and American Hospital Association Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy Stacey Hughes, spoke about AHA's top four federal priorities:

- Extending the Medicare sequester past the April 1 expiration.
- Medicare 340B program.

More reasonable repayment terms for hospitals that used federal loans during the pandemic.

- Replenishing the provider relief fund.

Hughes and the legislators all emphasized the importance of sharing hospitals' stories with them and Iowa's federal delegation.

Stay connected

Stay connected with IHA and our advocacy efforts by signing up for [Action Alerts](#). Through IHA's Action Alerts, important legislative actions are sent to your phone and email with talking points and an easy way to contact legislators.

After the virtual Hospital Day on the Hill, IHA sent two action alerts to contact senators about Iowa's certificate-of-need process and to contact representatives about tort reform. Both pieces of legislation are eligible for debate.

Click [HERE](#) to contact your senator about Iowa's certificate-of-need process.

Click [HERE](#) to contact your representative about tort reform.

A recording of the 2022 virtual Hospital Day on the Hill will be available in the Feb. 26 Legislative Bulletin.

IHA launches 'I've Had It,' a statewide COVID-19 vaccine ad campaign

"I've Had It," a promotional campaign developed by IHA that encourages Iowans to get their COVID-19 vaccinations, began late last week throughout Iowa. IHA has placed this campaign in print and on television, radio and online.

The first part of the campaign, funded by a grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health, tells the story of Amy and Mark Lyness of Manchester. Both chose to not get the COVID-19 vaccine, and both were infected with the virus last summer. Amy was hospitalized in Manchester and Cedar Rapids. She almost lost her life. Read their story [HERE](#) and watch their interview below.

The second part of the campaign launches in March, looking at the pandemic from an Iowa front-line physician's perspective. Email [Craig Borchard](#) at IHA if you are interested in having the campaign personalized with your logo for use in your market.



Biden extends federal COVID-19 national emergency

President Joe Biden extended the designation of COVID-19 as a national emergency. The national public emergency was set to expire March 1, but President Biden wrote in a letter to Congress that the emergency will continue past March. Although Iowa's state-declared emergency ended Feb. 15, Iowa still must follow federal guidelines in place including [honoring federal Medicaid waivers](#).

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



Missed a previous CEO podcast? Click the links below to learn more about Iowa's new hospital leaders.

- [Jill Groth](#), vice president and site administrator at [MercyOne Oelwein Medical Center](#).
- [David Stark](#), president and CEO at [UnityPoint Health-Iowa Methodist Medical Center](#).
- [Kurt Sargent](#), president at [CHI Health Mercy Corning](#).
- [Dave Burd](#), president and CEO at [Methodist Jennie Edmundson](#).
- [Catherine Hillestad](#), CEO at [Adair County Health System](#).
- [Ben Davis](#), CEO at [Osceola Regional Health Center](#).
- [Deb Herzberg](#), president and CEO at [Avera Holy Family Hospital](#).
- [Chuck Nordyke](#), CEO at [Clarinda Regional Health Center](#).
- [Cory Nelson](#), CEO at [Sioux Center Health](#).
- [Cindy Carstens](#), CEO at [Stewart Memorial Community Hospital](#).

IDPH reminds providers to report COVID-19 therapeutics use and wastage

The Iowa Department of Public Health issued a reminder to sites receiving COVID-19 therapeutics including monoclonal antibodies, preexposure prophylaxis treatment or oral antivirals that they must comply with federal reporting requirements.

The requirements say:

- Monoclonal antibodies on-hand and usage data must be reported every Wednesday in the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network for long-care facilities and Teletracking for all other sites.
- Pree Exposure prophylaxis treatments and oral antivirals on-hand and usage data must be reporting daily in HPOp.

HPOp also added a new tab in the Therapy Inventory section for wastage. Wastage for all COVID-19 therapeutic products except sotrovimab must be reported. When reporting wastage, providers should include:

- Lot expiration date.
- Lot number.
- Number of courses.
- Reason for wastage including expired, damaged and temperature excursion.
- Wastage date.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Find COVID-19 data on HHS and CDC sites

After the state-declared public health emergency ended Feb. 15, the state's data tracking websites coronavirus.iowa.gov and vaccinateiowa.gov are no longer active.

The Department of Health and Human Services provides several updates about COVID-19 patients hospitalized and the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care unit beds in the county and in Iowa.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Data Tracker provides the transmission level and COVID-19 case count and other COVID-19 data for the U.S. and Iowa.

Click [HERE](#) for the HHS hospitalization and ICU bed data.

Click [HERE](#) for the CDC Data Tracker.

These resources can be found on IHA's COVID-19 Resource page [HERE](#).

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [The Iowa Clinic buys land for multispecialty center in Waukee](#)
- [New effort addresses a mental health crisis among Iowa's youths](#)
- [Iowa City mental health center helps more than 1,000 people in first year](#)

National news

- [23% of health care workers likely to leave health care soon, poll finds](#)
- [342 hospitals have received price transparency notices from CMS](#)
- [Kronos class action lawsuit settled for \\$15.3M](#)

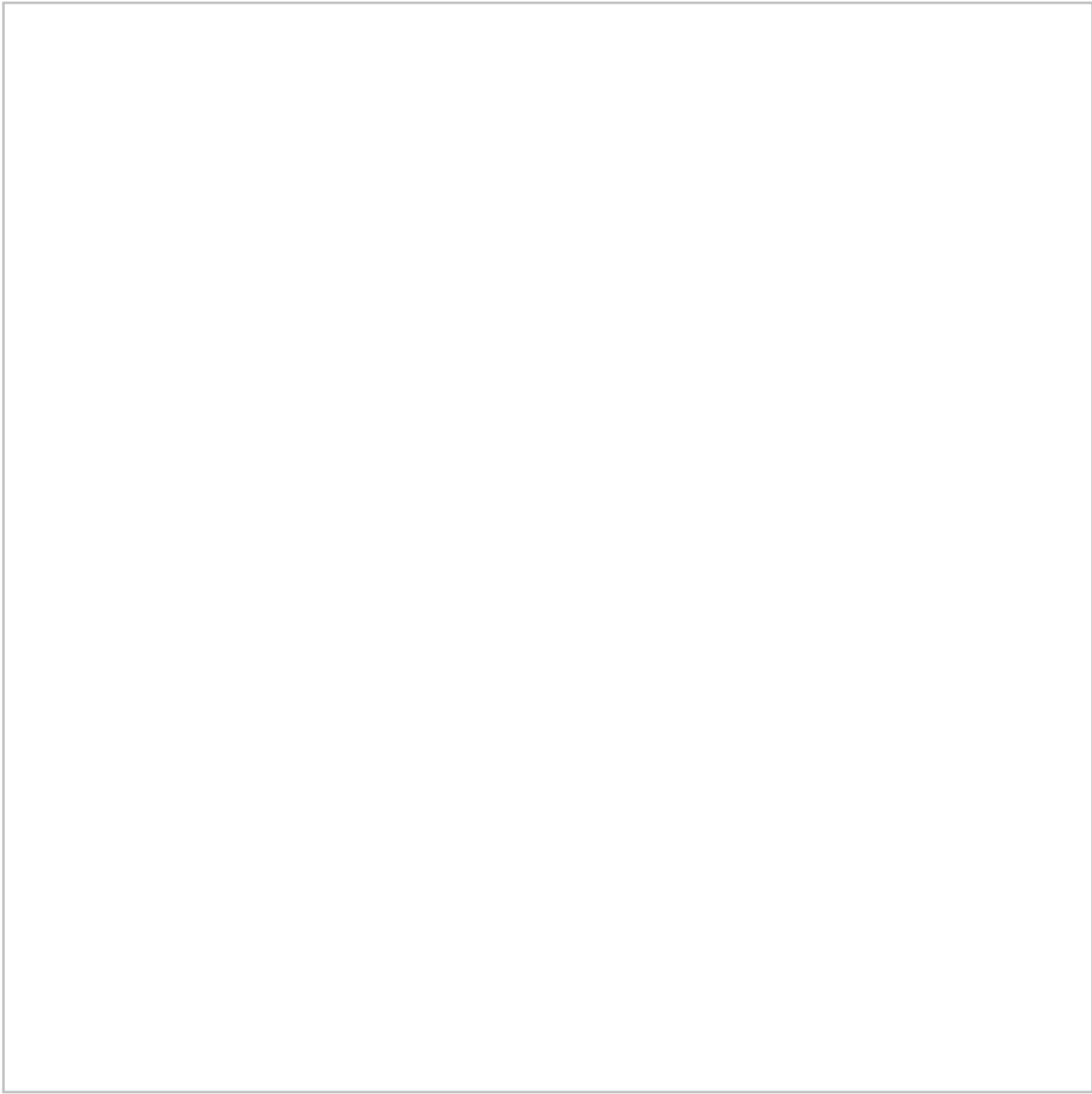
Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand

Upcoming events

- [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
- [You're the New Leader: Now What?:](#) Tuesday, March 22
- [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
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series:](#) Tuesday, May 17 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [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://www.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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