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Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Today's headlines:

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Mask guidelines remain in place for hospitals

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its masking guidelines Friday, Feb. 25. Under the new guidance, the CDC created low, medium and high levels for measuring which communities are considered substantial or high transmission for COVID-19 and the impact on local health systems.

Hospitals and health care settings are not subject to the masking recommendations, meaning despite a community's status under the new metrics, local health care settings should continue to require visitors to wear masks indoors.

For an explanation of the COVID-19 community levels, including a map, click [HERE](#).

For more information about the masking guidelines, click [HERE](#).

COVID-19 vaccine clinical guidance updated

[New data](#) shows some people ages 12-64, especially males ages 12-39, can benefit from getting their second mRNA COVID-19 shot eight weeks after receiving their first shot. Extending the time between the first and second doses from three or four weeks to eight weeks may increase the length of protection against COVID-19 and may help lower the small risk of heart inflammation.

The updated clinical guidance does not apply to everyone. Providers should continue

to recommend the three- or four-week interval for people 65 and older who are moderate or severely immunocompromised. People 12 and older moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive three doses in their mRNA vaccine series and a booster at least three months after their third primary series dose.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

IHA forming cybersecurity work group

After receiving feedback from members, IHA will form the Cyber Security in Health Care Work Group.

The goal of the new work group is to keep patients safe and protect critical health data. The group will take on the complex challenges of cybersecurity, monitor existing cybersecurity-related legislation and recommend new legislation.

The first meeting of the new work group is scheduled for 2 p.m. Friday, March 4.

Email [Gary Davis](#) at IHA to register for the meeting.

AHA releases resource to address workforce issues

Hospitals and health systems still face workforce shortages from attrition and waning interest in health care careers. The American Hospital Association released its 2022 Health Care Talent Scan to help hospitals and health systems better understand the latest trends and outside forces affecting health care human resources.

Topics in the guide include:

- Education, training and the evolving practice landscape.
- Growing a robust workforce.
- Health care trends affecting workforce planning.
- Keeping pace with future demand.
- Supporting clinician well-being.
- Workforce overview.

The guide was created using reports, studies and other data from leading organizations and researchers.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the 2022 Health Care Talent Scan.



Registration open for Iowa Association of Healthcare Quality Conference

The 2022 Iowa Association of Healthcare Quality Conference will equip attendees with the skills to manage a changing health care environment and ensure patient-centric quality outcomes.

Participants will learn to develop their relationships, personal and organizational skills and decision-making to ensure their organizations provide high quality care to patients. Participant also will:

- Discuss regulatory issues facing hospitals.
- Evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on readmissions.
- Learn how IHA's Dimensions Discovery Datalytics can improve quality care.
- Learn to adjust attitudes to create a positive work environment for health care staff.

The 2022 Iowa Association of Healthcare Quality Conference is scheduled from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

ServiShare partner IP Pathways offers IT health care solutions

ServiShare partner IP Pathways has more than a decade of success in the information technology health care industry. IP Pathways' IT solutions are designed to improve process and system workflows to enhance patient care, quality and safety.

IP Pathways also provide hardware, software, data centers, cloud storage, IT security, and professional and managed services. IP Pathways' hybrid health care solutions include:

- 24-hour help desk and IT support.
- Data center services including backup solutions and colocation, disaster recovery and Microsoft Officer 365 support.
- Health care technology and IT hardware procurement.
- Infrastructure solution design and consulting.
- IT strategy and business-continuity planning.
- Managed and co-managed IT services.
- IT security services.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Iowa to net \\$174 million over 18 years from opioid settlement](#)
- [Hospitals offer incentives, but nursing shortage remains a problem](#)
- [Iowa nurse creates virtual mental health service with focus on rural schools](#)

National news

- [CDC debuts new mask guidelines](#)
- [Labor costs push Trinity Health's operating income down 58%](#)
- [Hospitals plan to continue mask wearing despite updated CDC guidance](#)

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

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 Association for Healthcare Quality Spring Conference](#): Wednesday, April 13
- [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
- [Iowa Trauma Coordinators Spring Conference](#): Thursday, May 26
- [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.



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