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Saturday, June 25, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [Iowa public health ranks top 20 in nation](#)
- [Congress passes bipartisan legislation to reduce violence](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine approval for kids ages 6-17 expected next week](#)
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Iowa public health ranks top 20 in nation

The Commonwealth Fund has released its [2022 Scorecard on State Health System Performance](#), rating states' public health system performance. [Iowa health systems ranked 17th overall](#) with better-than-average overall performance for:

- Adults who went without care because of cost.
- Adults with mental illness who didn't receive treatment.
- Children without all recommended vaccines.

Iowa's health systems also improved performance for:

- Children without all recommended vaccines.
- Diabetic adults without an annual hemoglobin A1c test.
- Potentially avoidable emergency department visits for people 65 and older.

Despite Iowa's strong rankings nationally and among plains states, the scorecard found areas of improvement including unmet mental illness needs for adults, preventable hospitalizations for people age 18-64 and central line-associated bloodstream infections.

The Commonwealth Fund's scorecard uses the latest data to assess how well health care systems are working in every state and explores access to health care, cost and the overall health of people living in each state. In 2022, the Commonwealth Fund added a new data point for each state's response and management of the COVID-19 performance.

Congress passes bipartisan legislation to reduce violence

The House voted on Friday 234-193 to pass [bipartisan legislation to help reduce gun violence in communities](#). The bill will go to Pres. Joe Biden to be signed into law.

Approved by the Senate Thursday, the package includes behavioral health provisions, including:

- Expanded access to telehealth for mental and behavioral health services.
- Funding for school safety resources.
- School-based supportive services.

The American Hospital Association and IHA supported the bill.

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine approval for kids ages 6-17 expected next week

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's independent advisory committee, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, [voted to recommend Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for kids aged 6-17](#). The CDC now has to accept the recommendation before children can receive it. It is expected the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for this age group will be available for the state's June 27 allocation.

This age group has been able to receive the Pfizer vaccine since last year.

IHA advocacy team weekly roundup

Gov. Kim Reynolds signed three final bills into law from the 2022 legislative session, including [standings bill HF2589](#). The bill included:

- Legislation making [HF2521](#) retroactive to Jan. 1, 2019. HF2521 prohibits health care employment agencies from entering into contracts with a noncompete clause, liquidated damages or employment fees if a worker is hired by the facility. HF2521 was passed and signed separately from HF2589.
- Legislation requiring providers to give patients information about ambulatory surgical centers when referring there for surgery.

The advocacy team this week met with the Iowa Pharmacy Association. They were introduced to the association's new lobbyist and discussed IHA priorities including:

- 340B Drug Pricing Program.
 - Behavioral health.
 - Medicaid issues.
 - Pharmacy benefit managers.
 - Tort reform.
 - Workforce issues.
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IDPH creates new emergency and trauma services bureaus

The Iowa Department of Public Health reorganized its Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services. The restructure created the Bureau of Emergency and Medical Trauma Services and the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Bureau chiefs for each department are:

- Margot McComas, Bureau of Emergency Medical and Trauma Services.
- Brent Spear, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

IDPH's work with health care coalitions and system development will remain the same. The two bureaus will remain closely integrated through funding and system-development efforts.

Register for upcoming Medicaid town hall meeting

Iowa Medicaid members and health care providers can participate in [separate virtual town halls where Iowa Medicaid and the Iowa Department of Human Services will address questions or concerns](#).

The town halls are scheduled the fourth Thursday of the month with the next meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 30. [Providers will meet from 4-5 p.m.](#) and [members will meet from 5-6 p.m.](#)

Future meetings are scheduled for:

- Thursday, July 28.
- Thursday, Aug. 25.
- Thursday, Sept. 22.
- Thursday, Oct. 27.

Providers are encouraged to share this information with members who may be interested in attending a town hall meeting.

Complete Medicaid provider manual review feedback survey

The Iowa Department of Human Services is refining the Medicaid provider manual review process and will incorporate stakeholder input. [DHS developed a feedback survey for Medicaid providers](#).

The form can be completed multiple times for providers to submit content recommendations. Providers are asked to give feedback about areas of unclear or contradictory language. The form is not for recommending policy or coverage changes.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [What Iowans need to know about the new COVID-19 vaccine for children 6 months old and up](#)
- [AHA announces \\$9.3 million to improve health, stroke care in Iowa](#)
- [Federal broadband aid adds to Iowa's expansion](#)

National news

- [Some hospital websites are sending sensitive patient data to Facebook](#)
- [CDC panel urges seniors to get new, more potent flu shot this fall](#)
- [Hospitals see continued weaponization of pandemic aid](#)

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

Online education

In-person meetings

- [Emergency Preparedness Regulatory Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, June 28
- [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.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.
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100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1835 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 | WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG