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Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [IHA advocacy team weekly preview](#)
- [IHA to host cybersecurity conference](#)
- [COVID-19 public health emergency extended](#)
- ['Seizing the Conversation' highlights crucial role of hospitals](#)
- [Use air-gapped backups to protect networks](#)

IHA advocacy team weekly preview

The IHA advocacy team has more than 30 candidate interviews scheduled with six of them scheduled this week. The meetings will be virtual or in person at hospitals in the candidates' legislative districts. The Iowa Legislature has an unprecedented number of open seats this year because of redistricting, retirements and incumbents losing primaries or choosing to run for other offices.

The advocacy team this week also:

- Meets with the Trauma System Advisory Council on Tuesday.
- Convenes the first certificate-of-need work group on Wednesday.
- Follows up on Thursday with the Iowa Department of Public Health regarding the new ambulatory surgical center transparency law called Reuben's Rules.

Look for Saturday's edition of IHA Today for follow up stories.

IHA to host cybersecurity conference

Health care organizations need to stay vigilant against malicious cyberattacks. To help Iowa hospitals strengthen their cyber defenses, IHA will host John Riggi, senior adviser for cybersecurity and risk with the American Hospital Association, this Thursday for the Cybersecurity in Health Care Conference. Riggi will discuss recent security alerts and ways hospitals can protect their organizations and patients from malicious actors.

Conference attendees also will:

- Hear about the state of cybersecurity affairs from Cameron James, commercial property and casualty insurance executive with AssuredPartners.
- Learn about cybersecurity legislation from state Rep. Brian Lohse (R-

Bondurant), chair of the information technology committee.

- Review project management structures and relation development with hospital C-suite.

Invitations were sent to hospital information technology and cybersecurity staff. [Email Gary Davis](#) at IHA if you are interested in attending but did not receive an invitation.

The conference is scheduled from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

COVID-19 public health emergency extended

The Department of Health and Human Services [renewed the COVID-19 public health emergency](#) declaration for another 90 days. HHS previously extended the public health emergency in April. HHS said it will give a 60-day notice before the termination or expiration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Although Iowa's state-declared emergency ended Feb. 15, Iowa still must follow federal guidelines in place including honoring federal waivers.

'Seizing the Conversation' highlights crucial role of hospitals

The American Hospital Association called on hospitals to raise their voices and share their "stories behind the hospital H" in their new initiative. [Seizing the Conversation](#) will highlight the important roles hospitals play in the communities.

AHA wants hospitals from each state represented in the initiative. AHA is seeking 10 Iowa hospitals or hospital leaders who can be strong ambassadors to amplify hospitals' collective voices.

Topics hospitals can share include:

- **Community benefits.** Highlight the benefits hospitals provide to their communities including charity care, health education programs, housing and health food programs, health screenings and transportation for patients who need a medical appointment. Hospitals are encouraged to [highlight hospital-specific data and details from the Community Benefit and Economic Impact surveys](#).
- **Improving access to care.** Highlight actions health care organizations are taking to ensure care for patients.
- **Improving health and wellness.** Highlight the ways hospitals provide care beyond treating injury and illness by helping people stay healthy year round.
- **COVID-19 care and vaccination efforts.** Highlight how health care organizations care for their communities and provide life-saving vaccines.
- **Research and innovation.** Highlight ways hospitals use research and innovation like telehealth and artificial intelligence to improve patient care.

[Submit examples or sign up to be an ambassador on AHA's website.](#) Email [Alicia Mitchell](#) or [Emily Gustafson](#) at AHA with questions.



Use air-gapped backups to protect networks

Ransomware attacks are on the rise, but ServiShare partner, [IP Pathways](#), says proper data backup and disaster recovery plans help health care organizations save millions of dollars.

In a new blog post, IP Pathways recommends [organizations use air-gap and immutable backups to strengthen security and reduce risk](#). Air-gapping prevents hackers from accessing data on an organization's servers remotely while immutable backups mean the data is unchangeable.

To learn more about information technology and cybersecurity solutions, email [Maile Janssen](#), health care account manager, with IP Pathways.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [COVID-19 cases jump 30% in Iowa; hospitalizations up](#)
- [Last-Dollar Scholarship deadline approaching Aug. 1](#)
- [11 Iowa nursing homes have closed in recent months](#)

National news

- [Is it time to update the definition of 'fully vaccinated'?](#)
- [The dominant omicron subvariant is more vaccine-resistant](#)
- [As U.S. COVID-19 hospitalizations climb, the nursing shortage worsens](#)

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

Online education

- [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Tuesday, Nov. 15

In-person meetings

- [IHERF Swinging for Scholars Golf Outing](#): Thursday, Sept. 1
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Engineering Fall Conference](#): Thursday, Sept. 15 - Friday, Sept. 16

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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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