April 10, 2020

Rural Health Information during COVID-19

Dear Rural Stakeholders,

To continue to have consistent and efficient communication to provide rural health stakeholders with the information needed during this global pandemic, here are updates from the rural health programs at the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

As mentioned previously, for critical information relating to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we recommend that you regularly monitor information on the Iowa Department of Public Health COVID-19 Page. In addition, discover the latest resources, maps and information about the coronavirus (COVID-19) on coronavirus.iowa.gov.

For additional resources and updates, see the following pages. Please reach out for technical assistance and for any questions you may have.

We are an ongoing resource for you.

Best,

Rural Health Programs

Iowa Department of Public Health

For questions, contact:

Samra Hiros, MPH

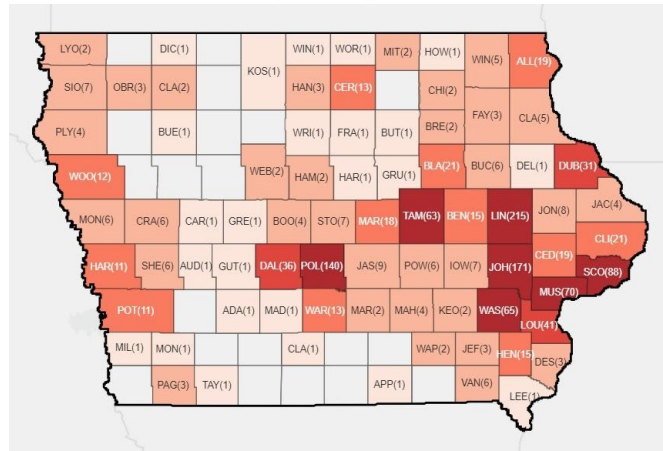State Office of Rural Health

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What's New:

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) just approved an order to create a $200 million telehealth program to support healthcare providers responding to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, using funds appropriated as part of the CARES Act. The COVID-19 Telehealth Program will help healthcare providers purchase telecommunications, broadband connectivity, and devices necessary for providing telehealth services. Applications from healthcare providers will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis as soon as application forms are published in the Federal Register. Details on information that applications must include are on page 14 of the order, see FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

Iowa COVID-19 Cases by County

To assist applicants in preparing their applications the Bureau will make available a webinar presentation on **Monday, April 13, 2020 at 10:00 AM CST,** which will be available on the COVID-19 Telehealth Program page: www.fcc.gov/covid19telehealth. The presentation will assist interested parties in navigating the application portal and provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the COVID-19 Telehealth Program's application process.

See CDC site for rural-specific information to read about rural health topics. On this website, you will also find an archived recording of the rural health stakeholder call which took place on Wednesday this week.

The Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) is a site created by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). This section of the TRACIE website lists resources for behavioral health in the current public health emergency: HHS Behavioral Health Resources for COVID-19.

Other Resources:

A quick, four-minute video highlights some of the best practices in providing telehealth services, see Telehealth Best Practices for Providers.

The HRSA/FORHP-supported Telehealth Resource Centers created a central site with policy updates, state-by-state resources, and best practice guides, see Telehealth Resources for COVID-19 Response

Telehealth 101: Intro and Q&A **– Fridays at 3:00 pm CST.** The HRSA/FORHP-supported South Central Telehealth Resource Center (TRC) will provide

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the basics of telehealth and telemedicine **each Friday through May 8**. Get more resources and find your regional TRC online.

Telehealth Learning Series for SUD Treatment and Recovery – **Tuesday, April 14 at 3:00 pm CST.** Live, one-hour sessions each week feature providers with expertise in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and recovery support using videoconferencing. The series is hosted by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network and the HRSA/FORHP-supported National Consortium of Telehealth Resource Centers.

NTIA: Business Models and Solutions for Rural Broadband – **Wednesday, April 15 at 1:00 pm CST**. The National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) will host three broadband providers currently serving rural areas to discuss sustainable business models.

Adapting Opioid Treatment Programs to COVID-19 – **Thursday, April 16 at 2:30 pm CST.** Experts from the University of Rochester Center of Excellence on Rural Substance Use Disorder will discuss the steps they are taking to adapt substance use disorder (SUD) programs as quickly as possible in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

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