

April 23, 2021

## **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](https://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:

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## Resources:

**Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act & Related Legislation and Administrative Action Impacting Rural Health:** Provides an overview of legislation passed by Congress regarding COVID-19. Identifies provisions relevant to rural healthcare providers, including the Paycheck Protection Program, funding for public health and rural workforce programs, telehealth flexibilities, and more. To read more, see [Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act & Related Legislation and Administrative Action Impacting Rural Health](#).

**COVID and the Impact of Community Health Centers on Rural America:** Webinar recording of a discussion with Members of Congress from Texas and Vermont about the responses of rural Community Health Centers to the COVID-19 pandemic. Covers the role of Community Health Centers in rural healthcare and adaptations during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide testing, telehealth, and vaccination. To read more, [COVID and the Impact of Community Health Centers on Rural America](#).

**COVID-19 Vaccination Training and Education Resources:** Information and resources for COVID-19 vaccination providers. Includes training programs and modules, reference materials, webinars for vaccinators. Also includes resources to help educate vaccine recipients. To read more, see [COVID-19 Vaccination Training and Education Resources](#).

**How ACL's Disability and Aging Network is Advancing Vaccination Efforts:** Provides an overview of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) grant programs for people with disabilities and older adults. Describes examples of vaccine-related activities for each program that can support COVID-19 vaccine access. To read more, see [How ACL's Disability and Aging Network is Advancing Vaccination Efforts](#).

**The Impact of COVID-19 on Title VI Native American Aging Programs and Services:** Infographic summarizing results of a survey of Title VI Native American aging program directors on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their programs and communities. Provides information on the needs of Native American elders during the pandemic, expanded or new services offered by Title VI programs, and workforce concerns. To read more, see [The Impact of COVID-19 on Title VI Native American Aging Programs and Services](#).

**Strategies for Helping Older Adults and People with Disabilities Access COVID-19 Vaccines:** Offers examples and promising practices for states, municipalities, community-based organizations, and others working to ensure that older adults and people with disabilities can receive COVID-19 vaccines. Discusses outreach and education, facilitating vaccine appointments, vaccine site accessibility and accommodations, and mobile vaccination programs.

To read more, see [Strategies for Helping Older Adults and People with Disabilities Access COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

### **Telemedicine Increases Access to Buprenorphine Initiation During the COVID-19**

**Pandemic:** Discusses the expanded access to buprenorphine prescription through telemedicine during COVID-19, comparing the experiences of two harm reduction primary care programs in a rural and urban region of New York. Discusses reduced barriers to treatment, particularly delays due to in-person evaluation requirements before to the pandemic, and innovations to opioid use disorder treatment made possible through telehealth. To read more, see [Telemedicine Increases Access to Buprenorphine Initiation During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

### **In the News:**

Apr 19, 2021 -- [Snag a Vaccine Appointment, Then Face the Next Hurdle: How to Get There?](#)

Discusses challenges that both urban and rural residents face getting to COVID-19 vaccination appointments, such as lack of public transportation or local vaccine availability. Highlights efforts in Colorado, Ohio, and Texas to help accommodate those who need transportation for their appointments.

Apr 15, 2021 -- [FCC Announces Round 2 COVID-19 Telehealth Program Application Portal Will Open on April 29](#):

The Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Wireline Competition Bureau announced they will accept applications for the second round of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program between April 29-May 6, 2021. Round two includes almost \$250 million to support the utilization of telehealth services during the pandemic.

### **Webinar Opportunity:**

**CDC COVID-19 Partner Update: Keeping up With Critical Diabetes Care and Prevention During COVID-19.**

**When:** April 26, 2021, 2:00 - 3:00PM Central Time

**Description:** Dr. Kyle Bernstein will share updates on CDC's COVID-19 response, including the latest scientific information and what everyone should know about protecting themselves and others. Dr. Beth Bigman will discuss how to maintain critical diabetes care and prevention during the pandemic. To register click on: [here](#).