

August 20, 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.

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:

How to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation: Strategies for sharing accurate information on COVID-19 and addressing misinformation using evidence-based messaging. To access, click on: [How to Address COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation](#).

Hunger, Poverty, and Health During COVID-19: Spotlight: Rural Communities: Research brief exploring the impact of the pandemic on rural communities, focusing on hunger, poverty, and health. Includes statistics on weekly deaths from March-November 2020 per 100,000 people ages 20 and over, with breakdowns by 5 levels of population density. To read more, see [Hunger, Poverty, and Health During COVID-19: Spotlight: Rural Communities](#).

Potential Implications of SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant Surges for Rural Areas and Hospitals: Opinion piece highlighting features of rural healthcare systems that make it more difficult for those hospitals to withstand surges in COVID-19 cases. Suggests possible solutions for institutions, governments, and society as they navigate the potentially rural-dominant Delta variant phase. To read more, see [Potential Implications of SARS-CoV-2 Delta Variant Surges for Rural Areas and Hospitals](#).

Talking with Patients about COVID-19 Vaccination: Explains motivational interviewing as a tool healthcare professionals can use to talk with patients and families about COVID-19 vaccination. Identifies four steps to apply this approach during a patient visit. To read more, see [Talking with Patients about COVID-19 Vaccination](#).

Ways Health Departments Can Help Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations: Tips for generating demand for the COVID-19 vaccine in different community settings and online. Includes information on how to increase trust in the health department. To read more, see [Ways Health Departments Can Help Increase COVID-19 Vaccinations](#).

In the News:

Aug 17, 2021 -- [For Second Week, Rate of New Vaccinations Climbs in More than Half of All Rural Counties](#): Reports on rural COVID-19 vaccinations in the week of August 6-12, noting that vaccination rates continued to exceed that of mid-July with 37.1% of the U.S. rural population fully vaccinated. Provides an interactive map with county-level vaccination data and charts comparing rural and metro vaccination rates and state rankings as of August 12.

Aug 12, 2021 -- [Rural Covid-19 Cases Surge Sevenfold in Last Month](#): Analyzes COVID-19 infection data for the week of August 1-7, noting that new infections in rural counties increased 40% while rate of increase in cases slowed from 50% the week prior to 42%. Provides a

county-level data map and charts comparing metro and nonmetro infection rates, as well as nonmetro and metro deaths.

Upcoming Webinar:

Webinar: [Rooted in Facts - COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

- When: August 25, 2021: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Webinar: [Tribal COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Learning Event](#)

- When: August 26, 2021: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Funding Opportunities:

The Iowa Department of Public Health is seeking eligible applicants to implement strategies that ensure greater equity and access to COVID-19 vaccine for those disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and/or implement strategies and activities that ensure increased equity and access to COVID-19-related services.

For both funding opportunities, eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, for profit organizations, tribal organizations, or governmental entities. Individuals are not eligible for this funding opportunity. *Note: An applicant may apply for any amount **up to \$250,000**.*

[View the opportunities here.](#)

Applications are currently being accepted on a rolling basis.

[American Rescue Plan Act: Emergency Rural Health Care Grants](#)

Grants to provide emergency funding for eligible Community Facilities applicants to help rural hospitals and local communities increase access to COVID-19 vaccines, testing, healthcare services (including telehealth), and food assistance.

Geographic coverage: Nationwide

Application Deadline: **Oct 12, 2021**