January 22, 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:

TRAIN Learning Network: COVID-19 Vaccination Training: A collection of online learning opportunities for healthcare professionals related to COVID-19 vaccination. Registration required to access courses. To read more, see [TRAIN Learning Network: COVID-19 Vaccination Training](#).

Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation: Taking a Leadership Role and Building Trust: Second in a <u>four-week series</u> exploring how philanthropic organizations are helping rural communities address the impacts of COVID-19. This week, Kim Barber Tieman, program director for health and human services for the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, shares how her foundation set up a grant capture team and funded grant writers to help organizations navigate and apply for federal funding opportunities. In addition, her foundation worked with organizations and funded three mobile COVID testing units to better reach communities of color. To read more, see [Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation: Taking a Leadership Role and Building Trust](#).

Benefits and Barriers to Pediatric Tele-Urology During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Study of remote video visits by a pediatric urology provider serving rural Virginia that examines the rapid integration of video visits into a practice that previously treated patients exclusively in-person. Discusses patient demographics, diagnosis and clinical outcomes, and success rates of video visits for 116 patients. To read more, see [Benefits and Barriers to Pediatric Tele-Urology During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

The "Community of Immunity" Vaccination Deficit Explorer: An interactive web-based mapping tool offering county-level estimates of annual influenza vaccination rates and potential COVID-19 vaccination deficit rates. Results can be filtered by the Community PPE (Public Health, Primary Care, Health Equity) Index, a measure of public health readiness to respond to the pandemic. Part of the HealthLandscape set of tools. To read more, see [The "Community of Immunity" Vaccination Deficit Explorer](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs and Reference Materials for Healthcare Professionals: A list of immunization training and educational materials, including basic and COVID-19-vaccine-specific information. Covers vaccine storage and handling, vaccine administration, patient education, and clinical materials. To read more, see [COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programs and Reference Materials for Healthcare Professionals](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations: Getting Started: Resources and information to help organizations that serve communities impacted by COVID-19 share information on vaccination. Includes key messages, answers to frequently asked questions, a presentation slide deck, posters and flyers, newsletter content, social media

messages, and more.To read more, see [COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations: Getting Started](#).

Multi-Discipline Licensure Resource Project: Provides current information on emergency regulations and licensing for occupational and physical therapists, psychologists, and social workers. Resources include state-specific information related to licensure, telehealth, and COVID-19, as well as online and phone support. To read more, see [Multi-Discipline Licensure Resource Project](#).

Provider Bridge: Connects healthcare professionals with state agencies and healthcare entities to increase access to care for patients in rural and underserved communities, and assists in mobilizing volunteer healthcare professionals during public health emergencies. Features COVID-19 resources including state-by-state telehealth information and links to help providers find answers to telehealth licensure questions. To read more, see [Provider Bridge](#).

Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants: Grants to nonprofit organizations that provide services to improve the daily lives of people with paralysis and their families. The 2021 cycle includes an option to focus on social isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To read more, see [Reeve Foundation Quality of Life Grants](#).

In the News:

Jan 19, 2021 -- [Rural Death Toll Passes 60,000; New Infections Decline](#)**:** Analyzes new COVID-19 infection rates between January 10-16, 2021, finds that new infections declined in rural counties, but the cumulative rural death toll surpassed 60,000. Includes county-level data identifying areas in the red zone with infections of 100 or more per 100,000 residents.

Jan 19, 2021 -- [Rural Vaccine Access Varies Widely, Sources Say](#): Explores COVID-19 vaccination distribution in rural areas across the country, describes how the lack of a database makes it difficult to track progress and identify areas that need help. While rural Texas hospitals struggle to get ahold of the vaccines, some rural areas in Washington are ahead of the curve and waiting for the rest of the state to catch up.

Jan 13, 2021 -- [Using Lessons from the Pandemic to Reimagine Health Care](#): Blog post discusses lessons learned and areas that transformed healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. Describes how partnerships between organizations and across other sectors bring innovation and collaboration, especially for rural providers with limited resources. Highlights opportunities within data analytics, the public health system, and virtual care.

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