



Cedar County Disaster Newsletter

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COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1B

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has released an update on Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution, which will begin February 1, 2021. Due to limited supply, IDPH has implemented a tiered prioritization of eligible groups. Note that persons 65 years old and over will be eligible to receive the vaccine during any tier. Additional populations vulnerable to high risk of exposure or severity of illness will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as indicated in the tiers below.

Phase 1B Priority Populations:

Persons aged 65 years and over. OR, the following populations vulnerable to high risk of exposure or severity of illness (listed in order of priority):

Tier 1

- First Responders
- PK-12 staff, early childhood education, childcare workers

Tier 2

- Frontline essential workers in food, agriculture, distribution, and manufacturing sectors who live or work in non-social distanced settings
- Individuals with disabilities living in home settings and their direct care staff

Tier 3

- Staff and individuals living in congregate settings not covered by previous Phase or Tier
- Government officials, including staff, engaged in business at the State Capitol

Tier 4

- Inspectors responsible for health, life and safety

Tier 5

- Correctional facility staff and individuals incarcerated

IDPH continues to urge Iowans that while the vaccine is still a scarce resource, to practice virus mitigation efforts.

You may contact your healthcare provider, pharmacy, and county health department for locations of where to get a vaccine. Cedar County Public Health can be reached at 563-886-2226.



***We know that these are trying times for everyone.
The following resources are available for Cedar
County residents:***

COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE

Free counseling is available to any Iowan who has been affected, in any way, by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The options available are:

- Call 800-447-1985 to connect with a counselor specializing in rural issues and agriculture 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Call the Iowa Warm Line, 844-775-9276, to connect with a peer counselor or request to get in touch with a COVID Recovery Iowa counselor.

DISASTER DISTRESS HELPLINE

Provides immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any disaster, natural or man-made. 1-800-985-5990. You can also text TalkWithUS to 66746 for assistance.

ARE YOU FACING AN IMMEDIATE CRISIS? PLEASE CALL FOR HELP:

- Call 911 for emergencies
- The Eldercare Locator: 1-800-677-1116 (interpretation services for 150 languages)
- National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4AChild (1-800-422-4453) or text 1-800-422-4453
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or Online Chat
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for English, 1-888-628-9454 for Spanish, or Lifeline Crisis Chat.
- Veteran's Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or Crisis Chat or text: 8388255
- Domestic Violence Intervention Program 24/hr. Crisis Line: 1-800-373-1043
- Homeless or facing a housing crisis? Call HouseIowa at 1-833-739-0065 for assistance.

COVID-19 TESTING

COVID-19 testing appointments at Test Iowa locations are filling up. Before heading to a Test Iowa site, complete the assessment first at testiowa.com and schedule an appointment to be tested at any location. Call Test Iowa with questions about testing: 515-575-2131 or 844-844-1561 (toll free), 8 am - 8 pm seven days a week (except Holidays).

Iowa Emergency Solutions Grant CARES Act

The Emergency Solutions Grant program helps prevent households from becoming homeless due to eviction, and assists Iowans experiencing homelessness to quickly regain rental housing. Examples of assistance available to eligible individuals include rent and utility payments, including in arrears, legal assistance, application fees, security and utility deposits, moving costs, case management and credit repair. All financial assistance is paid directly to landlords and service providers. The assistance will remain available until all funds are exhausted or September 30, 2022. Call 1-833-739-0065 for more information.

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Iowans who may qualify for unemployment due to COVID-19 or under the CARES Act can find information by calling: 1-866-239-0843

UNINSURED?

If you are uninsured and need COVID-19 testing, you can call 1-855-889-7985 for assistance.

COMMUNITY ACTION OF EASTERN IOWA

Do you need help with food, utility bill assistance, crisis assistance, disaster assistance, or other help? Contact Community Action of Eastern Iowa at 563-324-3236

REFUGEE ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL IOWA

COVID-19 ELL Help Line is available Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm at 1-877-558-2609.

EASTERN IOWA MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES – It's OK to ask for help!!

- 24-Hour Mobile Crisis Outreach & 24-Hour Crisis Line 1-844-430-0375
- 24 Hour Life Connections Peer Respite Support Line 1-516-688-7484
- MCSA Peer Line and Virtual Groups. Open 8am-5pm M-F 563-200-2742
- Life Connections Peer Line and Virtual Groups. M, T, Th, F: 5pm-10pm, Sat-Sun 12pm-5pm 563-357-6352
- Vera French Peer Drop In- 8am-4pm M-F 563-322-5276
- 24 Hour Crisis Stabilization Residential 563-396-3017

NEED HELP WITH YOUR HOME ENERGY BILL?

For individuals who received a disconnection notice or who have difficulty paying a utility bill, there is help available through Community Action of Eastern Iowa. Families can apply for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that can help pay a portion of an eligible household's utility bill.

The program began accepting applications October 1, 2020, for households that have a member who is at least 60 years of age, or disabled, or where disconnection is imminent. All others may apply November 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021. For assistance, please call 563-324-3236 or contact the Iowa Department of Human Rights at 1-800-351-4659.

FOOD BANK SERVICES

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has made several modifications to its food security programs due to the COVID-19 crisis. For more information, or to apply for SNAP benefits, call 1-855-944-3663.

IOWA LEGAL AID

Individuals with questions of a legal nature can call the Legal Information Hotline at 1-800-332-0419.

CEDAR COUNTY GENERAL ASSISTANCE

- There are three kinds of assistance in Cedar County
 - ▶ Emergency assistance for needy persons:
 - ▶ Assistance for poor persons,
 - ▶ Assistance for an extended nature.

You can also request food boxes from Cedar County General Assistance. For more information, call 563-886-1726

FEBRUARY 2021 HACAP FOOD RESERVOIR SCHEDULE

- 2/5/2021 – Tipton UMC, 607 Lynn Street, Tipton. 3:30pm – 4:30pm
- 2/9/2021 – Bennett Ambulance Service Building – 145 Main Street, Bennett – 3:00pm – 4:00pm
- 2/16/2021 – West Branch Fire Department – 105 S. 2nd Street, West Branch – 3:30pm – 4:30pm

CDC Eviction Moratorium

The CDC will extend its eviction moratorium until **March 31, 2021**. The moratorium protects renters who meet certain requirements and who sign a declaration form and give it to the landlord. If you are unable to pay your rent, you can call 211 or the Iowa COVID-19 Legal Advice Hotline at 1-800-332-0419.

This newsletter is published monthly by the Cedar County Emergency Management Agency to provide information, updates and resources regarding COVID-19 for our citizens. The contacts contained herein are being provided on an informational basis; we are not responsible for the content or services provided. Information is believed to be current as of the printing date of 01/29/2021.