

**WIC COVID Webinar Notes**  
**March 10, 2021**

**Attendance:**

State Staff- Jill Lange, Kimberly Stanek, Nikki Davenport, Nicole Newman, Caryn Wittry, Charles Lorinser, Brandy Benedict, Bruce Brown, Kenny Kane, Ken Kane, Jane Stockton, Dena Dittmer, Sherry Smith, Todd Erskine, and Connie Glover  
31- Karen Goff, Lexie Stoneking, Kristi Carr, Kalin Berkland, and Hannah Ledeboer  
33- Paula Klocke, Brenda Densore, Carla Bernholtz, and Malissa Pudenz  
34- Angela Munson and Diana Strahan  
35- Cindy Kaczinski  
37- Michelle West  
38- Sierra Stevens and Janet Weber  
39- Cindy Harpenau  
41- Carla Miller  
42- Sara Noack  
43- Amanda Kirchoff and Kristi Ott  
45- Christine O'Brien  
46- Cindy Meiners  
47- Tami Meendering  
48- Amanda Blum  
49- Jean Sterner  
50- Jessica Peterson  
51- Chuck Dufano  
52- Kris Wood  
53- Julie Miller  
54- Ashley Wandera

**Updates (Kimberly Stanek):**

- No change or updates to the January renewal of the National Public Health Emergency-waivers are still active through mid-May
- USDA waiver reporting
  - Information was sent out about the reporting survey for the waivers Iowa has received as part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
  - All agencies should have received information on March 1 and LAs need to report on the physical presence waiver by March 19, 2021
  - State will report on all other waivers and some other data reporting requirements
- Current COVID relief bill would allow states to increase the amount of the CVB to \$35 for 4 months not to be increased past September 30, 2021
  - The State Office doesn't have details about when it would start and which participants it would benefit but will likely participate in this
  - Christine O'Brien, the legislative call with Brian Dittmer was yesterday and suggested that we might want to wait as states to begin in June, so June, July, August and September as there will be a big push to extend into October
  - NWA also recommended a June timeframe per Kimberly

## **WIC COVID Webinar Notes**

**March 10, 2021**

### **Maternal Mortality Webinar (Nikki):**

- Will be held Monday, March 29, 2021 at 12:00-1:00 pm with Steph Trusty from IDPH
- Results and recommendations will be shared from the most recent Iowa Maternal Mortality Review Committee findings
- This training is required for all staff to watch- relevant to CPAs, BFPCs, and support staff
- It is strongly encouraged to watch live but if not possible it will be required to watch the recording by April 30, 2021
- A link to a survey will be shared looking for ideas/activities that could come from the training and confirming attendance
- It was recommended to look at the NWA Report- The Role of WIC in Reducing Maternal Mortality before the webinar if possible
  - [https://s3.amazonaws.com/aws.upl/nwica.org/fy20\\_nwa\\_factsheet\\_reducing-maternal-mortality-full-report.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/aws.upl/nwica.org/fy20_nwa_factsheet_reducing-maternal-mortality-full-report.pdf)

### **Baby Led Weaning Webinar (Nikki):**

- Will be hosted by the Iowa Food and Family Project, commodity groups- Beef, Pork, Dairy, Poultry and Soy
- August 30, 2021 at 12:00-1:00 pm
- Speaker will be Katie Ferraro from CA
- The webinar will be recorded and posted as well
- Emphasis on that this is an informative presentation that Baby Led Weaning/Feeding is one way to feed infants, not the only way

### **RFP for the Appointment Reminder System (Charles):**

- One Call was offered the contract for this RFP
- Thank you to agencies that helped with the process
- Timeline is yet to be finalized
- Do not reach out directly to One Call as the State will manage the training
- One WIC agency has a current contract with One Call and the State WIC staff will reach out to them
- Exciting news that the functionality will include a BFPC messaging system

### **WIC Amendment #1 (Bruce):**

- Budget revisions are going through the approval process currently
- \$805,000 increase to LA contract amounts (2.1% increase over the end of the year combined last year)
- Performance measure #2 ,Staff training and retention, attending NWA Conferences, has been removed as it is no longer applicable
- This is likely the last amendment of FY 2021
- Recommendation was given to keep an eye on your performance measures- can be used on anything at any time

**WIC COVID Webinar Notes**  
**March 10, 2021**

**Local Agency Updates:**

**31- BMC- Karen Goff**

- Majority of staff have completed both COVID vaccines
- Services have been the same as they have been for the past year
- Future plans depend on if waivers are extended

**33- New Opp- Paula Klocke**

- All staff except one are fully vaccinated
- Carroll clinic will be starting back to in-person appointments at the end of March
- Will still offer virtual appointments as participants desire

**34- HACAP- Angela Munson**

- Most staff have been vaccinated with both doses
- Back in clinic and continuing to offer virtual appointments as participants want
- The majority of people like coming back and are choosing that

**35- Hillcrest- Cindy Kaczinski**

- No one in Clinton has been vaccinated yet as they don't fit into the tiers unless they have an underlying condition, not sure about Dubuque
- Providing all appointments virtually by phone
- Have considered opening up for in-person but having some staffing issues at this time

**37- MATURA- Michelle West**

- About half of the staff have been vaccinated
- Doing some clinics feeling out areas for set up
- Joni Ernst's staff will be visiting one of their clinics at the end of March
- Encouraging participants to come in- with all of the books, cups, etc. they are putting together goodie bags to send home with families and this has been a hit

**38- MICA- Sierra Stevens**

- All staff that opted for the vaccine have both doses
- Offering in-person appointments for certifications but not many are taking them up on it
- Still open for weight checks/picking up pumps

**39- Mid-Sioux- Cindy Harpenau**

- Only a few staff have been vaccinated because of the way the county is operating
- Some in the county got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine
- Continuing with remote appointments and not going back until required if not able to receive the vaccine

**41- NICA- Carla Miller**

- Staff that chose to be vaccinated have received their second dose
- Many counties in their area are still on the 65 and older tiers with vaccine shortages
- Appointments continue virtually and will do that until required to be in-person

**WIC COVID Webinar Notes**  
**March 10, 2021**

- Many clients have expressed concerns with not being able to be vaccinated and not wanting to come in

**42- VNA Dubuque- Sara Noack**

- All staff that wanted the vaccine have received it
- In-person clinics started March 1 for certs/recerts with over 50% show rate the first week and lower attendance this week due to families reporting illness in their households and requesting phone appointments
- One clinic site had said they'd be willing to have WIC come back and then retracted that offer so clinic switched back to full remote

**43- Operation Threshold- Amanda Kirchoff**

- Many staff getting second vaccine in the next couple of weeks
- Black Hawk County continues to only offer vaccines to those over 65 years old
- Continuing appointments virtually at this time
- Planning to open when waivers expire

**45- CASEI- Christine O'Brien**

- All of staff that wanted the vaccine got 2nd dose the end of January
- Reopening in Burlington and Muscatine appointments this month
- Will start with travel clinics in April
- Offering for clients comfortable with in-person appointments

**46- AHFA- Cindy Meiners**

- Staff that wanted the vaccine have received it
- Continue to see some clients in Ottumwa as they have the last several months
- Will start seeing Fairfield clinic participants 3/11/21
- Some sites are still not comfortable with WIC coming

**47- UDMO- No response**

**48- WCCA- Amanda Blum**

- Staff have received vaccines
- Opening WIC clinics in all 8 counties if there is participant interest but most still prefer to do appointments by phone
- Have decided they must have at least 4 appointments in-person scheduled to travel to make it worthwhile

**49- Siouxland- Jean Sterner**

- All staff that opted to get the vaccine have received it
- On Monday 3/15 they will begin to see new certs and all pregnant women in-person if they're willing
- Doors will be open again so people can come in to make an appointment

**WIC COVID Webinar Notes**  
**March 10, 2021**

**50- Webster County- Jessica Peterson**

- Those that chose to receive the vaccine have received it
- Fully open at this time- some sites held off until January
- Most participants are now comfortable with coming in-person, at this time only a handful a week prefer to keep remote appointments

**51- Johnson County- Chuck Dufano**

- Only a couple of staff have been vaccinated, others haven't been able to get it
- All appointments by phone and working on finalizing a plan for getting back onsite

**52- Pott County- Kris Wood**

- All staff that wanted the vaccine have been fully vaccinated
- Seeing most new families and those that getting back on that don't have an eWIC card in-person with the rest of the appointments by phone

**53- Marion County- Julie Miller**

- All staff are fully vaccinated because of mass vaccination clinics in the county
- Most WIC staff have been pulled for doing COVID clinics so Julie is doing WIC on her own often
- Still looking for a dietitian to help out- PT or full time
- Still doing all appointments over the phone until staff are assigned back to WIC or the waiver expires
- Most clients prefer to continue remote appointments

**54- CHC- Ashley Wandera**

- Staff that have chosen to receive the vaccine are fully vaccinated
- Continuing full remote appointments- phone or video
- May open a little sooner than the waiver expires- continuing conversations with CHC upper management about this

**Questions:**

- Michelle West- Asked about starting increased CVB in June and how that will increase the benefit for all appointments considering a rolling 3 months of benefit issuance
  - Kimberly answered that this will have to be discussed at the State level but we'd want to make sure the increased benefits were available to all families
- Amanda Kirchhoff- Interested in seeing if they have met their requirement for Food Security Survey
  - Caryn will send updates
- Kris Wood- Asked how those that are open with participants coming in-person- how is social distancing being enforced?
  - Christine O'Brien- usually spreading out so there is only 1 person/family in the clinic at a time
  - Michelle West- some outer clinics have more than 1 family in larger clinics, but socially distant

## WIC COVID Webinar Notes

March 10, 2021

- Angela Munson- spreading out families still- locking doors and letting families in when they call so only one family in the waiting area at a time
- Jean Sterner- Regarding Farmers Markets- will checks still be mailed? Cost is high 2 years in a row.
  - Kimberly reported meetings will start with IDALS this month and more information will be shared.
- Carla Miller- Questions about the contract for FY 22.
  - Bruce- The State will be extending FY21 into FY22, with no RFA
    - A letter will be sent likely within the end of April where iowagrants.gov site for FY22 will be set up
    - An amendment will extend the contract to 9/30/2022
    - Budgets will need to be submitted- FY21 funds don't carry over, fresh budget starts 10/1/22
    - Hoping July will be the due date, in the meantime agencies can make sure iowagrants.gov is current
- Kris Wood- Do you anticipate us working on similar action plans into FY22?
  - Kimberly answered yes, that the State wants to make it as seamless as possible as this year has been challenging for the activities so we are hoping to continue the same action plans and with agencies making adjustments to dates
  - Agencies can work with their consultants about adjustments needed any time during the year by negotiating through IowaGrants.gov.