



IHA Health Equity Action Day

A multi-dimensional approach to effect real change

Friday, June 18, 2021

FAQs – Key Details About the Event

What is Health Equity Day?

IHA's inaugural Health Equity Action Day is an opportunity for healthcare leaders and staff to celebrate your efforts to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes and to discuss the journey ahead as you continue to work to advance health equity in the communities you serve.

IHA is organizing this Action Day as part of the work of the IHA Committee on Health Disparities, which formed in the summer of 2020 in response to the systemic racism, injustice and inequality in our society that was again underscored by the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on individuals and communities of color and the killing of George Floyd.

Why is Health Equity Action Day scheduled for June 18?

IHA purposefully chose Friday, June 18 for Health Equity Action Day to coincide with Juneteenth, which is June 19 and falls on a Saturday this year. Juneteenth marks the end of slavery in the U.S. On June 19, 1865, federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform the Black community that the Civil War had ended and the Emancipation Proclamation—issued almost three years earlier—meant they were and had been free for several years. Juneteenth holds great significance, especially among Black Americans.

In support of IHA's event, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed a proclamation declaring June 18 as the Illinois Health and Hospital Association's Health Equity Action Day, a day for all Illinois hospitals, healthcare providers and healthcare professionals to reflect on the issue of health disparities and the actions they can take—individually and collectively to improve health equity for all Illinois residents and communities.

What is the goal of Health Equity Action Day?

Through a multi-dimensional approach to effect real change, Health Equity Action Day is designed to give healthcare leaders and staff new insights and tools to take your efforts to achieve health equity to the next level. The goal of the day is for all participants to take concrete action to advance health equity.



Who should participate in Health Equity Action Day?

We encourage healthcare leaders to bring in staff across your organization to participate in Health Equity Action Day. This can include, but is not limited to, C-Suite and department leaders, leadership team members, physicians and other frontline healthcare professionals, and Board members.

What does the schedule for the day entail?

Morning programming—from 9 to 11 a.m.—will consist of virtual education that celebrates the work that has already occurred to address health disparities and discusses the journey ahead as we work together to advance health equity.

- Michelle Silverthorn, founder of Inclusion Nation, will deliver the keynote address. A highly sought-after speaker, Silverthorn will share innovative and strategic approaches to increasing inclusion, interrupting bias and improving diversity for good.

Afternoon programming will consist of activities for healthcare leaders and staff to work on together. Your organization can choose the activity you want to complete. These can be organizational activities, individual activities or pick-your-own activity, which may be something you're already working to develop or execute. See IHA's [list of resources and activity options](#).

Also on Health Equity Action Day, IHA will launch the *Racial Equity in Healthcare Progress Report*, which will serve as a long-term accountability tool to document progress toward achieving racial health equity. We are asking every Illinois hospital to complete the *Progress Report* over the summer.

What promotional materials are available to spread the word in my organization?

IHA is developing a variety of templates for organizations to use in their communication efforts. These include copy to promote the event on your intranet and in electronic communications with staff, as well as a customizable press release and sample social media posts.

How do I register for Health Equity Action Day?

You can register yourself and multiple colleagues for Health Equity Action Day through [this registration webpage](#). There is no fee to participate in the event.



Whom should I contact for more information?

You can email IHAequityday@team-iha.org for general questions. Or, feel free to reach out to the IHA leaders listed below.

Questions about the event can be directed to:

- Karen Harris, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, kharris@team-iha.org
- John Bomher, Senior Vice President and Counsel, Government Relations & Policy, jbomher@team-iha.org

Questions about the *Progress Report* can be directed to:

- Adam Kohlrus, Assistant Vice President, Quality, Safety and Health Policy, akohlrus@team-iha.org

Questions about marketing and promotional materials can be directed to:

- Valerie Culver, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Communications and Marketing Strategies, vculver@team-iha.org