



APRIL NEWSLETTER

THE LATEST IN TELEHEALTH NEWS



**UMTRC
NEWS**

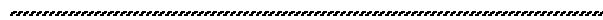
PUBLIC HEALTH AND TELEHEALTH IN 2026

As the UMTRC celebrates public health professionals and students this April, we want to highlight how important Public Health Week is to increasing access to rural healthcare. The broad spectrum of public health education plays such a crucial role in shaping the future of telehealth programming and addressing the unique health needs of rural populations. As healthcare increasingly shifts toward digital platforms, public health students and professors alike bring and build essential skills in population health, data analysis, health education, and policy development that could ensure telehealth is accessible and effective.

Be sure to celebrate your public health student and/or professional this April 2026 and highlight their contributions to expanding quality care to populations that have historically faced significant barriers.

Antonia Sawyer, MS.

Program Director, UMTRC



UMTRC BLOG

TPublic Health and Digital Health: Making Connections

“Digital health has rapidly emerged as a powerful tool to support and expand public health initiatives. Technologies such as telehealth, remote patient monitoring, mobile health apps, and electronic health records allow providers and public health professionals to collect, analyze, and act on health data more efficiently than ever before. Telehealth supports not only individual care delivery but also broader public health goals like chronic disease management, preventive screenings, and behavioral health services.”

[Read More](#)

NEW RESOURCES

2026 Reimbursement Guides

The 2026 telehealth reimbursement guides are here! Check out individual reimbursement guides for every state in our region. These guides include overviews for Medicare as well as each state's more common private insurance.

ILLINOIS

INDIANA

MICHIGAN

OHIO

NEW WEBINARS

Live Webinar on May 6th - Medicare Telehealth Flexibilities Extension

Join the UMTRC in partnership with the OH State Office of Rural Health from 1PM-2PM EST on Wednesday May 6, 2026 as we host Mei Kwong of the Executive Director of the Center for Connected Health Policy for a Medicare Telehealth Flexibilities Extension presentation.

[Register Now](#)

EVENTS

28th Annual IRHA Rural Health Conference

Date: June 23 - 24, 2026

Location:

French Lick Resort Event Center (French Lick, IN)

The Indiana Rural Health Association's Annual Conference is the largest gathering of its kind in the state, bringing together physicians, nurses, pharmacists, public health professionals, students, and others committed to improving rural health. This interactive, educational event features insights from both frontline practitioners and national experts on today's most pressing rural and public health issues. Attendees gain valuable updates and practical guidance on the development and management of effective rural healthcare delivery models.

[Register Now](#)

IRHA Lunch and Learns

Our parent organization, the Indiana Rural Health Association, regularly hosts free Lunch and Learn webinars that cover topics from telehealth to community leadership. You can register for these webinars on the IRHA's webinar [here](#).

Some upcoming sessions include:

Lunch & Learn - Behavioral Health-Telehealth: Benefits & Uses

Date: May 6, 2026

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

As the concluding installment of this three-part behavioral health series, this session will focus on the expanding role of telehealth in rural Indiana. Participants will explore the practical advantages, implementation strategies, and real-world applications of telehealth in strengthening behavioral health access and service delivery.

From infrastructure considerations to statewide collaborations, this session will provide a comprehensive look at how telehealth partnerships across Indiana are improving care for rural populations.

[!\[\]\(3e2231b1ad3ca8da8658228c00dd08e0_img.jpg\) Register Here](#)

Lunch & Learn - Educating In a Rural Health Setting

Date: May 20, 2026

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Rural health education—even on a limited budget—is not simply a cost; it is a strategic investment in community health and healthcare sustainability. Thoughtfully designed education programs can strengthen community connections, improve access to evidence-based care, and generate long-term value for local healthcare systems.

This webinar will explore the measurable impact of rural health education and highlight practical, low-cost strategies for delivering high-quality, evidence-based learning. Participants will gain insight into how education can drive engagement, build trust, and translate learning into real-world utilization of healthcare services.

[!\[\]\(7d1d6890825e83a6a4a51febe2dcc7f3_img.jpg\) Register Here](#)

More Events

- [Rural Health Transformation Fund: Workforce Trends and Implications for Rural Care](#)

NEWS UPDATES

News Updates – Telehealth Flexibility Extensions

Recent federal and policy developments continue to shape the telehealth landscape in 2026. One of the most significant updates is the extension of Medicare telehealth flexibilities through December 31, 2027, ensuring continued access to virtual care for patients nationwide, including the ability to receive services at home and use audio-only visits.

At the same time, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is working to streamline how new telehealth services are approved, making it easier to expand covered services based on clinical benefit. Additional federal investments are also emerging, including new funding proposals for telehealth centers of excellence and telehealth nutrition programs, signaling continued support for digital health innovation and chronic disease management. These policy changes collectively point toward a more stable and integrated telehealth environment following years of temporary pandemic-era measures.



PARTNER UPDATES

Webinar Recording

View a [recorded webinar](#) from the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society about the intersections of health, broadband access, and digital inclusion. The relationships tying technology access and use to access to health care, quality of care, and health outcomes have become more visible than ever. As health care and digital inclusion organizations alike recognize that connectivity, devices, and digital skills shape our health, collaboration across sectors is essential.

[View Now](#)

Newsletter Information

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