

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ March 23, 2020



First, on behalf of your team at IHA, we couldn't be more proud to represent hospitals during this crisis. We are all in awe of the tireless and selfless work hospital employees are doing for their communities. The heroic efforts are not unnoticed.

We've developed this daily summary to give you a one-stop-shop for information and news and reduce the number of emails you receive. Please make sure to check the action needed section each day.

While we do have some of your hospital staff on our distribution list, it is not an exhaustive list. If you'd like others to be included, please email their names and email addresses to [doakes@teamiha.org](mailto:doakes@teamiha.org) or forward them this notice and have them click the button at the end.

Thanks for all you are doing,  
~Brian

## ACTION NEEDED

### Resource Reporting

Governor Little, IHA, and others are relying on your DAILY reports to the state of PPE inventory, bed availability and other key indicators. Please make sure your designated person responsible for reporting is doing so every day. This data will become critical to resource allocation. FEMA was very clear that daily inventory and burn rate is required to receive any equipment. The burn rate is inclusive of all equipment used no matter what the provider is treating/testing for. The queries from the state are being refined to meet the FEMA needs and what is critical for state officials to track.

The White House wanted all hospitals to know that under the new law signed by the President, hospitals are now required to provide two reports to CDC – the number of cases they have, as well as bed capacity. HHS will issue some guidance, but we will need to work closely with the health districts and the state to make sure that we are not double reporting. We believe the Dept. of Health & Welfare will take the lead on aggregating the hospital data and sending that on, but we will provide more information as the HHS and state guidance is available.

### PPE Availability

Each state should be receiving more PPE supplies in the next 36 hours. The PPE requisition process is up and running in Idaho. If you need PPE, you contact your local health district where, through WEB EOC, you can request PPE. PLEASE specify the quantity you need. Some have not been doing that – just checking the box to say they need PPE.

Additionally, the Federal government has put out an RFI for vendors to bring additional vents online. Those responses are coming in, and we may soon see auto manufacturers producing more vents.

## Resources & Equipment

### Testing Update

The State Lab has an additional 800 test kits and are running about 160 test a day – four times what they were doing a week ago. Nationally, 87% of the COVID-19 tests have been done in the last five days. That speaks to how much ramping up has taken place.

Eleven Idaho hospitals have Cepheid equipment which the FDA just certified for COVID-19 testing, so, capacity is building. That's about a 45-minute test, and hospitals should be receiving those tests directly from the vendor.

There are more cases in Ada County, but those all appear to be from close contact with people known to be infected and are not considered "community spread" – which is getting it, but not knowing how you got it. [Link to case counts](#)

### Procurement Source ~ Face Masks

AdCo Source announced Friday it has both N95 and disposable face masks. For contact information and pricing, click [here](#).

### Temporary Nursing Licensure

The [Idaho Board of Nursing](#) is providing opportunities for nursing students and new nursing graduates to receive [temporary licensure](#) during this outbreak. Additionally, temporary reactivation of licenses, one-time and short-time licenses are also available.

IBN also is reminding hospitals and others that Idaho is a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact to allow those RNs with licenses in other compact states to practice in Idaho.

## Reimbursement & Policy

### 1135 Waiver for Hospitals

On March 13, HHS Secretary Azar issued a [list of blanket 1135 waivers](#) to allow hospitals more flexibility during the outbreak. Blanket waivers do not need applications by either hospitals or the state. Hospitals are able to operate under these authorities effective as specified in the release.

Other waiver authorities published March 17 can be applied for by the state. Today, [Idaho's waiver request](#) was submitted by the Dept. of Health & Welfare. In a call with the Governor, President and federal officials, we were told the waivers were being addressed rapidly. CMS Administrator Seema Verma told governors today that 11 state applications were approved over the weekend.

This is an evolving process and additional waivers may be applied for, please watch our daily updates for the latest information.

### HR ~ Impact on Employers of Family First Coronavirus Act

Hawley Troxell, IHA's legal advisors, has prepared a [summary of the key provisions](#) of the Coronavirus Response Act that will impact employers including emergency leave, paid sick leave, and exceptions for healthcare providers and emergency responders. The Act, signed on March 18, will go into effect April 2.

## Virtual Meetings & Updates

### ECHO Idaho

Please join ECHO Idaho for a [virtual discussion](#) with a panel of experts Tuesday, March 24 from 12p- 1:30pm (MTN). To be responsive to Idaho's time zones and to accommodate busy schedules, the session's format will be a didactic presentation (20 min.), Q&A (50 min.), repeated didactic presentation (20 min.).

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