COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ March 25, 2020

Governor Issues Statewide Stay Home Order

While the Governor’s Stay-Home Order issued today provides Idaho residents the latitude to work from home or telework, we must also encourage Idaho residents to limit non-essential travel and contact with others to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Hospitals are addressing concerns and needs of healthcare and other essential services.

ACTION NEEDED

Hospital based testing

For Idaho Hospitals, long term care facilities listed below are testing a sample, based on interest in their facilities, the Governor’s Work Group has tasked them with Fulfilling the information and shared with the AHA so that the CEO receives the information. The report is to be sent daily by 3p.m.

For those CAHs who have indicated they will bring testing online, we will notify hospital CEO, excluding CAHs. Hospitals that are not testing in-house do not need to report.

Additional information is expected later today at 5 p.m.

Reimbursement & Policy

Suspension of state rules

On Monday, Governor Brad Little signed a proclamation lifting restrictions in 125 administrative rules. The suspensions correspond with actions taken last week by the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Board of Anesthesiology, the Idaho Board of Medicine, and the Idaho Board of Psychology. The suspensions are in place to address the need for healthcare access. The suspension includes rules for Medicaid, licensure of physicians, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, and nurses to ensure such healthcare providers can continue to work without delays. More granular information is expected. The order, in effect for at least 21 days, requires the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to prepare a report summarizing some of the key aspects of all state rules suspended to date and provide a list of suspended rules most relevant to hospitals to share within the next few days.

1135 waiver update

The 1135 blanket waiver application was granted by the federal government on March 22, 2020. On March 22, the Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE) is offering access to clinical portal. They can add up to four staff initially. To make the process as simple as possible, please email covid-19@idahohde.org and include a prioritized list of providers and support staff names and contact information. IHDE is working with neighboring states. If healthcare providers and organizations would like to have access to the IHDE Clinical Portal, they can add up to four staff initially. To make the process as simple as possible, please email covid-19@idahohde.org and include a prioritized list of providers and support staff names and contact information.

Resources & Equipment

IHDE offers access to clinical portal

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Quality & Patient Safety

CDC updated guidance for those at higher risk

On March 19, CDC updated guidance for those at higher risk of contracting COVID-19. The new guidance recommends persons at higher risk of contracting COVID-19, including those over the age of 65, people with underlying health conditions, and those living in long-term care facilities. CDC recommends that those at higher risk should take as many protective actions as possible, and consulted with the Food and Drug Administration before issuing this guidance.

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