

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



This daily summary is designed to be your one-stop-shop for information and reduce the number of emails you receive from IHA. Please make sure to check the action needed section each day. If you'd like others on your staff to be included, please send their names and email addresses to doakes@teamiha.org or forward them this notice and have them click the button at the end.

Thanks for all you are doing!

Governor Issues Statewide Stay Home Order

While the Governor's Stay-Home Order issued today provided [high level guidance](#), more granular information is expected. The order, in effect for at least 21 days, requires all non-essential Idahoans to self-isolate and work from home, only going out for essential services.

The Governor's Work Group is addressing concerns and needs of healthcare and other essential employees, including the need for child care for some on your staff and is deeming that as an essential service.

Additional information is expected later today at coronavirus.idaho.gov.

ACTION NEEDED

Hospital based testing

As Idaho hospitals bring new COVID-19 testing capabilities on board internal to their facilities, the Vice President and CMS Administrator want direct, daily reports from those facilities. The American Hospital Association has been tasked with gathering the information and will be [sending the request and a link to provide the data](#) to each hospital CEO, excluding CAHs. Hospitals that are not testing in-house do not need to report. For those CAHs who have indicated they will bring testing online, we will notify AHA so that the CEO receives the information. The report is to be sent daily by 3p MTN/2p PAC for tests performed the prior day (midnight to midnight). Daily reports are to include:

- New diagnostic COVID-19 tests ordered/received
- Cumulative diagnostic COVID-19 tests ordered/received
- New COVID-19 test resulted
- Cumulative specimens rejected
- Cumulative COVID-19 tests performed
- New positive COVID-19 tests
- Cumulative positive COVID-19 tests
- Percent positive among newly resulted COVID-19 tests
- Cumulative percent positive among resulted COVID-19 tests

Reimbursement & Policy

Suspension of state rules

On Monday, Governor Brad Little signed a [proclamation lifting restrictions in 125 administrative rules](#) to increase healthcare provider capacity and reduce barriers to healthcare access. The suspension includes rules for Medicaid, licensure of physicians, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, and nurses to ensure such rules do not prevent, delay, or hinder necessary action to cope with the emergency. The suspensions correspond with actions taken last week by the Idaho [Department of Health and Welfare](#), the Idaho Board of Medicine, and the Idaho Board of Nursing. IHA counsel has prepared a memo [summarizing some of the key aspects](#). IHA staff is preparing an itemized list of the suspended rules most relevant to hospitals to share within the next few days.

1135 waiver update

The 1135 blanket waiver(s) issued by Secretary Azar on March 13th apply to all providers without further application. This week, the Idaho Dept. of Health & Welfare sent an additional 1135 waiver application. One thing of note is that federal 1135 waivers do not set aside state licensing and certification requirements. As such, if the need to exceed licensed bed authority arises, each individual hospital must submit its own waiver request to the Bureau of Facility Standards and CMS. There is currently no standardized form, but hospitals are encouraged to submit hospital contact information; the number of beds requested for expansion; the location of the beds; and rationale to support the request. The state's facility standards personnel will coordinate with CMS in reviewing the requests.

Resources & Equipment

IHDE offers access to clinical portal

The Idaho Health Data Exchange (IHDE) is [providing temporary emergency access](#) free of charge to all healthcare providers who do not currently have access to the portal, and are caring for the citizens of Idaho both within the state, as well as in communities in 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.

Quality & Patient Safety

CDC update guidance for those at higher risk

On March 22, CDC updated [prevention tactics for populations at a higher risk](#) of contracting COVID-19, including those over the 65; people with underlying health conditions, especially ones that weaken the immune system such as HIV; and people living in long-term care facilities. CDC said there is not enough research on the virus' effects on pregnant women, but monitoring for infection is recommended.

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