Reimbursement & Policy

Federal CARES Act signed by President

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed by President Donald Trump on Friday, March 27. This historic legislation provides immediate financial assistance to American families, healthcare professionals, and small businesses.

The CARES Act includes several provisions that directly impact hospitals, including:

- A 12% increase in Medicare payments
- A temporary elimination of the Medicare sequester
- A Medicare diagnosis-related group (DRG) adjustment for non-emergency surgeries
- An additional $16 billion provided to the Strategic National Stockpile
- An additional $25 billion provided to the Public Health Emergency Fund
- An additional $100 billion provided to hospitals and health systems
- A temporary expansion of Medicaid

This legislation is designed to provide immediate relief to hospitals and healthcare providers who are facing significant financial strain due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Idaho Hospital Association (IHA) is committed to supporting the urgent preparedness and response needs of Idaho’s hospitals and healthcare providers. IHA is working closely with the federal government and state leaders to ensure that hospitals have the necessary resources to care for patients during this crisis.

Resources & Equipment

Updated report for assistance through Public Health

IHA is committed to supporting the urgent preparedness and response needs of Idaho’s hospitals and healthcare providers. IHA is working closely with the federal government and state leaders to ensure that hospitals have the necessary resources to care for patients during this crisis.

This week’s Project ECHO Idaho COVID-19 session was very well received by providers across the state. They had a record 737 distinct participants sign in for the twice weekly COVID-19 sessions. As a result, they will do twice weekly COVID-19 sessions beginning Tuesday, March 31.

Project ECHO continuing online learning

IHA has launched a Project ECHO continuing education initiative to connect rural healthcare providers in Idaho. The series is designed to be an ongoing educational opportunity for rural healthcare providers to receive continuing education credits.

Study on sterilizing face masks for reuse

With frontline healthcare workers facing extreme shortages of PPE, many hospitals are considering options for reusing or repurposing masks. The Board conducted an emergency meeting yesterday and immediately approved new guidelines to allow facilities to conduct a study on the effectiveness of sterilization techniques for facial masks.

Board of Pharmacy limits prescriptions for certain drugs

The Idaho State Board of Pharmacy has issued a memo regarding Rule 704 promulgated additional language to the existing temporary rule 704. The rule is effective immediately. The Board conducted an emergency meeting yesterday and immediately approved new guidelines to allow facilities to conduct a study on the effectiveness of sterilization techniques for facial masks.

The Board of Pharmacy remains open during the extreme emergency declaration. The board conducted an emergency meeting yesterday and immediately approved new guidelines to allow facilities to conduct a study on the effectiveness of sterilization techniques for facial masks.

Directing donations of equipment and supplies

Idaho’s citizens and businesses who have equipment and supplies to donate or have it directed to the right people. By centralizing the information, supplies can be made available to organizations using the most effective and efficient means. To fill this need, IHA has created a central system for organizations to request some medical and hygiene supplies to fill the needs of the state’s hospital community.

The Central and Southwest District Health regions are working with the Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition and the United Way of Southern Idaho to create a streamlined process to match the medical needs of the state’s hospitals. Representatives of the two District Health offices and Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition have been working with representatives of the United Way to streamline the process.

All requests for non-PPE critical medical resources will be electronically submitted to the Idaho Office of Emergency Health and Welfare Operations Center (IDHWOC). All non-PPE critical requests for medical resources will be electronically submitted to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Operations Center (IDHWOC). Critical requests for PPE will be electronically submitted to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Operations Center (IDHWOC). The Division of Public Health released a new summary of key provisions and potential financial impact of new loan opportunities but has prepared an updated request for assistance through Public Health.

Once submitted, IHA will distribute links to Idaho hospitals, using a pre-programmed automated process. Facilities will need to exercise due diligence in ensuring the correct recipient of the information.

Updated request for assistance through Public Health

The Idaho Office of Emergency Management Operations Center (IDOC) is continuing to work with the Department of Health and Welfare on the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department of Health and Welfare has created a Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) to coordinate public health responses to COVID-19.

The IDOC is coordinating with the Department of Health and Welfare to ensure that all critical medical resources are being coordinated and prioritized.

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Requests will be matched with donations as they come in and prioritized by the need of the requesting facility. The State continues to actively work to acquire large quantities of critical need medical supplies.

Critical requests for PPE will be electronically submitted to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Operations Center (IDHWOC). All non-PPE critical requests for medical resources will be electronically submitted to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Operations Center (IDHWOC). Critical requests for PPE will be electronically submitted to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Operations Center (IDHWOC). The Division of Public Health released a new summary of key provisions and potential financial impact of new loan opportunities but has prepared an updated request for assistance through Public Health.

Updates are sent to the areas most in need. If you have people wanting to help, consider directing them to this site: https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/e6c8d206c14f42a5bae76c827f13cb84.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

For more information, visit https://www.idahohealth.org. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Centralized Request for Assistance Process at requestforassistance@ihaf.org.

Virtual COVID-19 training online learning

This week’s Project ECHO COVID-19 training sessions were very well attended by healthcare providers across the state. The sessions were led by experts in the field and covered a range of topics related to COVID-19, including honing your skills to adapt, adjust, and pivot during a crisis.

The sessions were held twice weekly and included topics such as:

- Patient management
- Acute care settings
- Telehealth
- COVID-19 updates

IHA is committed to providing ongoing education and training to healthcare providers during this unprecedented challenge. We will continue to offer virtual training sessions and updates to keep our members informed and prepared for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks for all you are doing! at the end.