

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ March 27, 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 other staff members 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!

Reimbursement & Policy

IHA applying for hospital relief funding

IHA is committed to supporting the urgent preparedness and response needs of Idaho's hospitals and health systems on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. IHA has learned of a funding opportunity from HHS within the Hospital Preparedness Program that is designed specifically for state hospital associations. The Notice of Funding Opportunity, which we expect will be posted early next week, will specify how much each state hospital association will be eligible to receive based on various factors.

Once funded, IHA will distribute funds to Idaho hospitals, using a not-yet-determined distribution formula. Those funds can be used by hospitals to: 1) train staff to implement COVID-19 preparedness plans; 2) procure supplies and equipment i.e. PPE; 3) train healthcare providers in the areas of infection control and triage; 4) retrofit separate areas to screen and treat large numbers of persons; 5) implement expanded telemedicine/telehealth capabilities; and, 6) increase patient beds to provide surge capacity using temporary structures.

Federal CARES Act signed by President

Legislation signed by the President today is designed to provide financial relief and resources to individuals, families and businesses during this crisis. For hospitals, it includes an emergency fund, a Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital cut delay, temporary elimination of the Medicare sequester, and a Medicare diagnosis-related group add-on payment. Together, these provisions are estimated to make \$117 billion in new funding available for hospitals and health systems. AHA continues to evaluate the potential financial impact of new loan opportunities but has prepared an [initial summary of key provisions](#).

Resources & Equipment

Updated request for assistance through Public Health

The Division of Public Health released a new [Request for Assistance Process](#). The link also includes the Medical Material Request Form and Prioritization of PPE summary.

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 Office of Emergency Management Operations Center (IDEOC).

The Central and Southwest District Health regions are working with the Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition, Ada County, and the United Way of Treasure Valley. There is now a [central system for organizations to request some medical and hygiene supplies](#). Requests will be matched with donations as they come in and prioritized by representatives of the two District Health offices and Western Idaho Healthcare Coalition. When/if requests are able to be filled, representative of the United Way will follow up with applicants.

This is a donation-based system and the ability to match needs with supplies will be subject to availability of donated resources. The State continues to actively work to acquire large quantities of critical need medical supplies.

Directing donations of equipment and supplies

The state Office of Emergency Management is coordinating the generous efforts of Idaho's citizens and businesses who have equipment and supplies to donate or have access to resources. [This survey](#) will allow individuals to enter the information and have it directed to the right people. By centralizing the information, supplies can be 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>

Quality & Patient Safety

Board of Pharmacy limits prescriptions for certain drugs

The Idaho State Board of Pharmacy has issued a memo regarding Rule 704 [Medication Limitations for prescriptions for chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine and oral azithromycin](#). The Board conducted an emergency meeting yesterday and promulgated additional language to the existing temporary rule 704. The rule is effective immediately. The Board of Pharmacy remains open during the extreme emergency declaration. The [COVID FAQ](#) on their website is updated daily as information evolves.

Study on sterilizing face masks for reuse

With frontline healthcare workers facing extreme shortages of PPE, many hospitals have asked about sterilization and reusing masks. Physicians from Stanford University conducted a study on the effectiveness of sterilization techniques for facial masks. The graphic below summarizes their conclusions. For more detail, including their results on the effectiveness of alternative face protection, visit this [short summary](#).

Can Facial Masks be Disinfected for Re-use? (Measurement results by 4C Air Inc.)					
Samples	Meltblown fiber filtration media		Static-charged cotton		E. Coli. Disinfection Efficiency
	Filtration efficiency (%)	Pressure drop (Pa)	Filtration efficiency (%)	Pressure drop (Pa)	
70°C hot air in oven, 30min	96.60	8.00	70.16	4.67	>99%
UV light, 30min	95.50	7.00	77.72	6.00	>99%
75% alcohol, soaking and drying	56.33	7.67	29.24	5.33	>99%
Chlorine-based disinfection, 5min	73.11	9.00	57.33	7.00	>99%
Hot water vapor from boiling water, 10min	94.74	8.00	77.65	7.00	>99%
Initial samples before treatment	96.76	8.33	78.01	5.33	

Conclusions: **DO NOT use alcohol and chlorine-based disinfection methods.** These will remove the static charge in the microfibers in N95 facial masks, reducing filtration efficiency. In addition, chlorine also retains gas after de-contamination and these fumes may be harmful.

Table 2: Data supplied courtesy of [Professor Yi Cui](#) | Materials Science and Engineering, Stanford University and [Professor Steven Chu](#) | Physics and Molecular & Cellular Physiology, Stanford University on behalf of 4C Air Incorporated.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Project ECHO continuing online learning

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 signing in for the session. As a result, they will do [twice weekly COVID-19 sessions](#) beginning Tuesday, March 31. [Registration](#) is now open.

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