Governor's Work Group Update

Governor Brad Little and his Coronavirus Working Group started their meeting today with a report from the State Epidemiologist. The number of Idaho COVID-19 patients continues to rise, and the Governor put a strike team together to address what issue before it becomes a challenge in Idaho. Their recommendations will include the State’s approach to discharging patients to long-term care facilities.

After the report from the State Epidemiologist, the Governor’s working group is encouraging providers to preserve and/or appropriately extend the life of all PPE. The working group inferred that to mean that the Strategic National Stockpile may not have the resources to meet all demands.

With regard to testing, capabilities are ramping up across the state. The Governor’s working group has asked about whether the Governor or Working Group was mandating more drive through testing. It was mentioned that there are no mandates. Governor Little has directed his team to white house to be responsive to this request.

Reimbursement & Policy

Federal data reporting updates

The Federal government has started asking for more data on PPE. The Governor, in the meeting, recommended that hospitals report to the State Epidemiologist first and then the data be entered directly into the Federal National Healthcare Safety Network.

Federal government wants providers to work with vendors as much as possible to get the supplies they need. The Working Group inferred that with all of Idaho’s universities able to do some predictive modeling. The Working Group inferred that the State Epidemiologist will have an opportunity to review those assumptions later this week.

Funding provisions for hospitals

Hospital-specific waiver information

Full requirements for Idaho hospitals to report data are available online. The Governor, in the meeting, underscored the importance of maintaining the sequencing and not being distracted from the work you are trying to do in the field.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Reimbursement & Policy

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Programs & resources

Additional information about other business loans through the Federal Reserve is available. The Small Business Administration (SBA) Loans via the “Paycheck Protection Program” is targeted to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations (public/governmental entities do not qualify). This is a 100% government-guaranteed loan to eligible businesses to help with fixed costs (i.e. rent, mortgage interest, and other utilities) for up to 12 weeks.

The Paycheck Protection Program is set up to give you a way to access funds to pay salaries and benefits, among other uses. Under the program, 75% of the forgiven amount is dedicated to employee salaries and benefits. The loan is designed to provide a financial incentive for employers to retain their employees, by not laying off employees between February 15 and June 30, 2020.

Additional information about other business loans through the Federal Reserve is available online.

Resources & Equipment

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

AHA released a report entitled, "COVID-19 Hospital Impact Survey.” As many of our member hospitals are contemplating, or have already requested, information on two elements: 1) capacity during a crisis and 2) how your hospital is using the National Healthcare Safety Network system. Here’s what the Vice President is asking:

The Federal Government has shifted its strategy on data collection. A letter from Vice President Pence, to all hospitals, is asking for RTS queries. That will help in the Federal government’s planning, and it will help as federal agencies have relaxed regulations to facilitate the delivery of telehealth.

That is targeted to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations (public/governmental entities do not qualify). This is a 100% government-guaranteed loan to eligible businesses to help with fixed costs (i.e. rent, mortgage interest, and other utilities) for up to 12 weeks.

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