COVID-19 Daily Report to Members - April 9, 2020

Reimbursement & Policy

FEMA funding applications and process now available

Today, we received confirmation that the elements needed to allow Idaho’s nonprofit and governmental hospitals to access federal FEMA funding have been put in place. Under the FEMA emergency declaration, hospitals may apply for Type B funding for certain emergency protective measures. Additional resources and information, as well as the Request for Public Assistance (RPA) which would need to be filled out by each hospital seeking funding and the required PNP Questionnaire are available through the Idaho Office of Emergency Management’s COVID-19 disaster website.

For additional information, please contact Larry Tisdale (IHA) or Jarod Dick (IOEM).

Resources & Equipment

More UV units delivered to hospitals

IHA helped Reyco Systems of Caldwell distribute ultraviolet light decontamination equipment to additional hospitals. Today, Tom Murphy, CEO of Minidoka Memorial Hospital, received one of the Reyco Systems Steril-Aire UV-C wands - which will assist in decontamination of N-95 masks and other PPE.

Quality & Patient Safety

CDC guidance on clinical specimen swabs

The CDC clarified allowances for other swab types using new data which aligns with Food and Drug Administration guidance by designating the following as acceptable alternatives to nasopharyngeal swabs:

- oropharyngeal specimen collected by a healthcare professional;
- nasal mid-turbinate swab collected by a healthcare professional or by onsite self-collection (using a flocked tapered swab); or
- anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen collected by a healthcare professional or by onsite self-collection (using a flocked or spun polyester swab).

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Podcast on COVID-19 and cybersecurity

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it a rise in cyber threats to hospitals and health systems. On this AHA Advancing Health podcast, John Riggi, AHA senior advisor for cybersecurity and risk (and a recent IHA Convention presenter), and FBI Cyber Division Senior Executive, Herb Stapleton, discuss what is at risk and what can be done to protect against a cyberattack. [Listen to the podcast]