

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ April 20, 2020



Last week, the President presented his guidelines on the three phases of [Opening Up America Again](#). Included in the first and second phases of the President's plan are gating criteria on how hospitals and healthcare systems can resume elective surgeries. Both phases point to adhering to [CMS guidance](#), which the agency released on Sunday, April 19.

In Idaho, the Governor's Emergency Declarations and Stay Home Orders did not include mandates for hospitals to cancel or postpone elective surgeries. Most Idaho hospitals voluntarily took those steps in order to preserve personal protective equipment and hospital capacity. Without a closure order, the Governor's Coronavirus Working Group did not recommend that he announce the ability to resume elective surgeries – rather, that decision should be left to hospitals once the Stay Home Order is modified and appropriate triggers are met in the CMS guidance.

As the Governor considers his next steps once the current Stay Home Order expires on April 30, hospitals are encouraged to continue planning and working together on how they will address the PPE and testing criteria outlined by CMS.

## Reimbursement & Policy

### [New information on antibody testing](#)

Friday, IDHW posted [updated information and FAQs on antibody \(serological\) testing](#) for COVID-19.

Serological tests detect antibodies in the blood generated during the immune response to a specific infection, in this case, COVID-19; and differ from tests that detect the virus that causes COVID-19.

While a number of new serological tests for COVID-19 have been developed, only four have been authorized by the FDA to date. The release provides the specifics on FDA-approved tests, warnings about unapproved tests, and answers questions about infection and immunity.

### [Nursing homes must now report directly to CDC](#)

Yesterday, CMS announced [nursing homes now must report cases](#) of COVID-19 directly to the CDC to advance data collection and surveillance. CMS intends to make the data public. CMS is also requiring nursing homes to inform residents and their families of COVID-19 cases in their facilities, in accordance with existing privacy laws and regulations.

## Resources & Equipment

### [New app matches PPE donations with local hospitals](#)

Last week, AHA announced its partnership with various groups to launch Protecting People Everywhere, an app-powered initiative that matches individuals and organizations donating personal protective equipment with local hospitals based on need. The HealthEquip app also will track PPE donations and manage shipping through UPS to hospitals. The AHA is sharing the app with hospitals through its 100 Million Mask Challenge. Hospitals and donors can [register their PPE](#). There is also a [video guide](#) and [FAQ](#) for additional information. Hospitals and health systems can begin registering and submitting requests for PPE immediately.

## Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

### [Webinar ~ Providing behavioral health during COVID-19](#)

AHA and Sheppard Pratt Health System will share how the system continues to provide behavioral health services during COVID-19. Sheppard Pratt has re-engineered its care processes, developed new care protocols for agitated patients, and created a virtual emergency department assessment. Presenters also will share their efforts to support staff and build resilience during the crisis.

April 22 ~ 12p-1p MT / 11a-12p PT

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