

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ April 23, 2020



Deadline extended for HHS reporting

Today, HHS said that the deadline for hospitals to submit data in TeleTracking has been extended to Saturday, April 25 at 12p PST. This is the data request sent directly to “site administrators” – although the source for that contact information has not been shared – on April 12. This is to help determine the \$10 billion distribution of funds to hospitals and other facilities hit hard by the outbreak. For additional details on the latest distributions to hospitals, please see the [April 22 Daily Update](#).

If you did not receive an email containing your hospital's specific registration information or have other issues registering with TeleTracking, HHS recommends contacting them directly at 877.570.6903. HHS has acknowledged long wait times for those calling for technical support and indicated that TeleTracking recently added 100 staff to respond to call center requests. They also are directing hospitals to leave a message if they are unable to reach someone live, and that a member of the support staff team will call each hospital back. The agency believes that the data entry process should not require more than 5 or 10 minutes.

Idaho's curve is flattening ~ Governor announces reopening plan

Governor Brad Little, with the help of the Department of Health and Welfare and guidance issued by President Donald Trump and the CDC, has established a [data-driven, phased approach to opening up Idaho's economy](#).

This approach reduces the risk of COVID-19 to Idaho's most vulnerable populations and preserves capacity in our healthcare system, while opening up businesses safely. From an economic standpoint, Idaho's rebound from COVID-19 starts with employee and consumer confidence, which leads into business stability and growth and eventually promotion and attraction.

To assist in safely and responsibly reopening Idaho's economy, Governor Little also announced the formation of a new Economic Rebound Advisory Committee. Former Idaho Power CEO Darrell Anderson will chair the committee which includes Betsy Hunsicker, CEO of West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell and Chair-elect of IHA's Board of Directors.

Governor Little cautioned that we cannot progress through the stages of reopening if people don't continue to implement safe social distancing, wear face coverings and practice proper hygiene to keep the curve flat and not stress Idaho's healthcare system with a surge of new COVID-19 cases.



Reimbursement & Policy

IHA submits statewide 1135 waiver request

Earlier this week, the IHA submitted an [1135 waiver request](#) on behalf of our members. The submission format was unique in that it incorporated the requests made by the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. They did the same by incorporating a previous request made by the Washington State Hospital Association. In addition to those submissions, requests unique to Idaho's needs were also included.

Although the process was complicated by frequent 1135 blanket waivers implemented by CMS, IHA was able to incorporate much of the input by our CEOs and had support from the legal counsel from several of our hospitals.

Resources & Equipment

Idaho lands leading edge system for N95 decontamination

As announced by Governor Little this week, Idaho is receiving a Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System which will allow N95 respirator masks to be reused upwards of 20 times each without a loss in performance. The system is set to be deployed in Idaho Falls and will be [accessible by Idaho hospitals](#) as well as others in nearby states.

The Battelle CCDS system uses concentrated, vapor phase hydrogen peroxide and exposes the used masks to the validated concentration level for 2.5 hours. It decontaminates biological contaminants, including SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19.

Hospitals will be able to [register with Battelle](#) to get a facility-specific code which is noted on each mask. Used masks will be packaged and sent to the processing site where they will be processed free of charge and checked to confirm complete decontamination before being returned to the facility.

With a decontamination rate of up to 80,000 masks a day, the system will be integral in preserving PPE in Idaho and throughout the region.

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