



**GUIDELINES
FOR OPENING UP
IDAHO**



Connecting with Congressman Simpson

IHA facilitated a conference call today with Congressman Mike Simpson and several hospital CEOs in his district to hear how CARES Act relief is working, and to solicit input for future rounds of Federal relief. The Congressman spoke with IHA Past Board Chair, Dallas Clinger (Power County Hospital District, American Falls), Ben Smalley (Cassia Regional Hospital, Burley), Jeff Sollis (EIRMC, Idaho Falls), and Mike Blauer (Bear Lake Memorial Hospital, Montpelier).

The four CEOs each thanked the Congressman for the welcomed relief and provided insight into how the CARES Act funding helped prop up bottom lines that have seen steady declines since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Idaho. They also offered some suggestions on how future relief measures could help keep hospital staff employed and prepared for any potential surge in COVID-19 cases.

In addition to financial concerns, PPE shortages, and testing capabilities, IHA also used the conference call as an opportunity to help the Congressman understand the current and future challenges associated with medication shortages for vented COVID-19 patients – some of which would be necessary for hospitals to resume medically necessary surgeries and other procedures postponed because of coronavirus.

Resources & Equipment

[White House authors testing blueprint aimed at re-opening](#)

A [testing blueprint](#) was distributed by the White House yesterday. The guidelines are designed to further the nation's re-opening efforts and capture the progress made to date. The emphasis is on federally-supported, state-led efforts to increase testing, supplies and capacity.

In the report, the state, local and private sector responsibilities are outlined as well as an update on the progress made by the Federal government in terms of "expanding the number of testing platforms, increasing testing and laboratory supplies, unlocking full laboratory capacity, and enhancing sample collection:

State and local governments are expected to:

- Develop testing plans and rapid response programs, as called for by the President's Guidelines.
- Maximize the use of all available testing platforms and venues (e.g., private, public, hospital, clinic-based laboratories).
- Identify and overcome barriers to efficient testing (e.g., underutilization of deployed assets, misallocation of supplies, logistical failures).
- Develop and implement sentinel monitoring and rapid response programs.

In addition to the release of this report, the CDC updated its [evaluation and laboratory testing criteria](#).

Quality & Patient Safety

[Facility resource for re-opening](#)

ASHE (the American Society for Healthcare Engineering) is developing considerations to supplement CMS guidance as hospitals prepare to resume non-emergent and non-COVID-19 care. [This publication](#) looks at patient placement considerations as well as waiting and screening area suggestions.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

[This week's CMS hospital and provider COVID-19 calls](#)

CMS will host a call for hospitals, health systems and providers to answer questions on temporary actions the agency has taken to increase hospital capacity; expand the health care workforce; and further promote telehealth.

Thursday, April 30 ~ 3p-4p MT / 2p-3p PT
Dial-in: 833-614-0820 / Passcode: 7476619

[Register](#)

On Friday, May 1 CMS and the FDA will host a call to share clinical best practices, strategies, and insights related to COVID-19.

Friday, May 1 Call from 10:30a-12p MT / 9:30a-11:30a PT
Dial-in: 877-251-0301 / Passcode: 9545128

[Register](#)

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