

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ April 29, 2020



GUIDELINES FOR OPENING UP IDAHO



Governor to discuss Stage 1 rebound

Tomorrow at 11a MT, Governor Little will hold a press conference to discuss the next stage of Idaho's rebound. You can stream it live through Idaho Public Television, [here](#), or via their [Facebook live stream](#). We will also recap his comments in tomorrow's Daily Update.

Reimbursement & Policy

Federal relief distribution update

The CARES Act included \$100 billion in relief funding for all healthcare providers. Of that funding, \$50 billion has been distributed to providers. Media reports suggest that the entire \$100 billion is "for hospitals", but of the first \$50 billion, only 44% went to hospitals. IHA is working to help the public understand that the **relief to date has been for all providers** not only hospitals.

That proportion will change when the next CARES Act tranche of the \$100 billion goes out. That will be \$10 billion for COVID-19 Hot Spots – as calculated from the data recently submitted through the HHS TeleTracking System. Most all of that will be directed to hospitals and could go out as early as this week.

The next CARES Act tranche of \$10 billion will be directed to rural hospitals and rural health clinics. HHS is still working through the distribution formula for that funding, but these additional tranches will get the hospital proportion of the \$100 billion higher than 44%.

That leaves about \$30 billion of the CARES Act to still be distributed, and, with additional funding in last week's Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, HHS has a total of \$105 billion to get out the door.

Negotiations are already underway between Congressional leaders on a Relief Package 4.0. The Senate is scheduled to return next week; the House may come back into session the second week of May. In addition to refilling the relief funding buckets and increasing the hospitals' proportion of that funding, IHA is joining forces with other state associations and the AHA in encouraging Congress to forgive the loans of Medicare accelerated and advanced payments and turn those into grants.

Resources & Equipment

Behavioral health resource

Idaho's first confirmed COVID-19 case was reported on March 13. In the subsequent 47 days, we've seen the toll coronavirus has taken on nearly 2,000 Idahoans and their families, Idaho's economy, education systems, and hospital finances. The unseen toll on healthcare workers and the affects of COVID-19 on the behavioral health of Idahoans and their providers will be the focus of this Friday's ECHO Idaho session.



ECHO Idaho's standing team of Specialists will be joined for this session on "Behavioral Health in the time of COVID-19" by:

- India King, PsyD, Clinical Psychologist and Associate Director of Behavioral Sciences, FMRI Nampa, and
- Amy Walters, PhD, Health Psychologist and Director of Behavioral Health Services, St. Luke's Humphrey's Diabetes Center

Registration for this and other ECHO Idaho resources is free resource for clinicians. COVID-19 related calls are taking place on Tuesdays from 12-1p MT and Fridays from 1-2p MT.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Telehealth - During and After COVID-19

Providers continue to investigate and implement telehealth in response to the pandemic which, during the emergency declaration, includes some flexibilities and relaxed restrictions. This webinar includes updated regulatory information as well as the possibility for continued regulatory changes post-COVID-19. This complimentary webinar is provided to IHA members by the Iowa Hospital Association.

Telehealth – During and After COVID-19
Wednesday, May 6
9-10a MT / 8-9a PT
[Register](#)

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