



Idaho moves to Stage 1 of reopening

Today, Governor Little announced that Idaho has met the criteria to enter into **Stage 1 of the four stage Idaho Rebounds plan**. Under this new phase, the Stay Home order is replaced with a new "Stay Healthy" order which includes continued and expanded directives for individuals and businesses.

The Governor re-iterated that Idaho's successful recovery will "start with employee and consumer confidence." This new phase should allow 90% of Idaho businesses to reopen. General business protocols were provided as well as additional, specific protocols for youth activities, daycares and places of worship. CDC's updated **Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting** is included in Idaho's plan. This resource might also be useful as hospitals begin to see more patients and resume use of waiting or other common areas.

Both Governor Little and IDHW Director Dave Jeppesen commented on the continued efforts throughout the state to expand testing, noting that the availability of testing has grown over the last ten days with hospitals and other labs coming online. The Director noted that, while testing demand is waning in some areas, there are still unmet needs in others. Assuring that testing capacity continues to grow and allowing for an expansion of the criteria for who should be tested remains a top focus.

Additional efforts to track and monitor cases are also being expanded throughout the state. IDHW and the public health districts are scaling up contact tracing, increasing capacity through more boots on the ground as well as expanded technology. The Governor, his advisors, and IDHW also continue to evaluate the potential for another round of cases in the fall, which could coincide with Idaho's regular flu season, and the impact that might have on hospitals and providers.

Resources & Equipment

IDHW increases testing counts in state report

This week, IDHW added approximately 8,000 new negative COVID-19 tests to the **total state count**. Most of these results were from in-house hospital labs over the last two weeks. While all tests had been reported to public health departments, IDHW reviewed the tests to remove any duplications before adding the statewide data.

The results of the new tests were all negative while any positives were verified and included on the date reported. The negative tests took longer to review because of the volume. The addition of these negative results reduces the overall amount of positive tests from 9.6% of tested Idahoans to 6.9%.

Correction - ECHO Idaho COVID-19 education sessions

Yesterday's information about ECHO Idaho's virtual education sessions incorrectly stated that sessions were held on both Tuesdays and Fridays. Beginning next week, COVID-19 sessions will only be held on Tuesdays.

The next session, **Behavioral Health in the time of COVID-19**, will be tomorrow at 12p MT / 11a PT.

Quality & Patient Safety

COVID-19 specific EMTALA FAQs

An updated FAQ posted by CMS provides additional guidance on **hospital and CAH EMTALA obligations**. Questions regarding EMTALA amid the pandemic are answered and touch on issues like signage, telemedicine, and processes for treating and redirecting patients, as well as other issues specific to CAHs. For questions regarding this information, please contact **Nicole Hernandez**.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Next week's CMS hospital and provider COVID-19 calls

Lessons from the Front Line calls are held on Fridays. Hosted by CMS and the FDA, clinicians can share clinical best practices, strategies, and insights related to COVID-19.

Friday, May 1 - 10:30a-12p MT / 9:30a-11:30a PT
Dial-in: 877-251-0301 / Passcode: 9545128
[Register](#)

Friday, May 8 - 10:30a-12p MT / 9:30a-11:30a PT
Dial-in: 877-251-0301 / Passcode: 9146779
[Register](#)

On Tuesday, a call for home health and hospice provides COVID-19 specific guidance as well as an opportunity to answer questions.

Tuesday, May 5 - 1p-1:30p MT / 12p-12:30p PT
Dial-in: 833-614-0820 / Passcode: 7844154
[Register](#)

On Tuesday, a call for home health and hospice provides COVID-19 specific guidance as well as an opportunity to answer questions.

Tuesday, May 5 - 3p-4p MT / 2p-3p PT
Dial-in: 833-614-0820 / Passcode: 3996146
[Register](#)

IHA joins our partners at the American Hospital Association in recognizing and appreciating all the hard work being accomplished by our hospital heroes in Idaho and throughout the country.



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