Hospital reopening model

Jon Ness and his team at Kootenai Health have modeled their hospital reopening guidelines after the Governor’s Idaho Rebounds plan. It has a familiar look, feel and focus for legislators and the public who are closely watching the Idaho Rebounds efforts. Jon was happy to share their work in hopes that it might be helpful for other facilities planning their reopening efforts to match the staged efforts at the state level.

Incident Command System planning for hospitals

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) is a standardized approach to managing complex incidents. It was an instrumental resource for St. Luke’s Wood River during the outbreak that not only brought a high volume of potential COVID-19 patients but also impacted staff who had been in contact with an infected patient without PPE.

Each hospital that adopts this process follows common principles and terminology in the event of a large-scale emergency or event. The principles of HICS come from FEMA’s Incident Command System. HICS allows the hospital to standardize its approach to an event, even if each department does their own way during normal operations.

HICS has five main elements that work together to allow a hospital to effectively manage an incident:

1. Develop a command structure that eliminates duplication, can be scaled to fit the needs of the incident, and follows a reasonable span of control (bigger incidents need more leaders);
2. Integrate people from different parts of the hospital and from outside agencies into the command structure;
3. Identify needs and establish objectives to resolve the incident;
4. Develop strategies to achieve the objectives; and
5. Provide support and direction to those responsible for carrying out the objectives (the tactical response).

The state of California adopted a Hospital Incident Command System which has been recognized and adopted by many hospitals across the United States.

Idaho’s healthcare heroes on the front line have worked long days under stressful circumstances during this pandemic. A few Idahoans, from everyday citizens to Governor Little, wanted to share just how much they appreciate our heroes and what you mean to all Idahoans. Enjoy this five-minute video tribute to those who are on the front lines.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Webinars for operations and clinician well-being

May 11 ~ 12, 1-3:30 PM MT

The webinar will highlight experiences and lessons learned from a few of the hardest hit hospitals in New York, New Jersey, Louisiana, and Arizona so that other healthcare systems can implement these strategies during their current response and in planning for a potential next wave. Speakers will discuss their hospital operations, logistics strategies, and experiences with the current COVID-19 response. Registration is free but limited to the first 1,000 participants.

Clinician well-being during COVID-19
May 7 ~ 11:30 AM MT

Experts will discuss critical needs, priorities and emerging strategies to support the well-being of clinicians during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

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