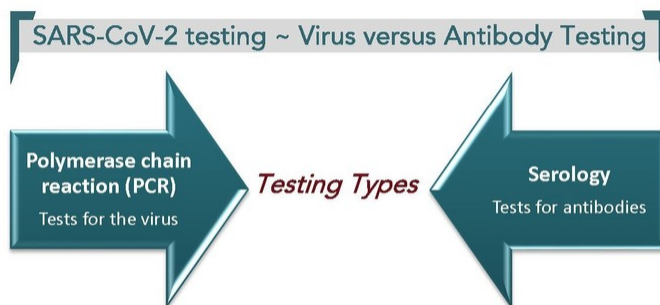


COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ May 8, 2020



**GUIDELINES
FOR OPENING UP
IDAHO**



Hospitals key to "Rebound Idaho"

Governor Brad Little spoke with Idaho hospital CEOs today by conference call and reiterated the crucial role hospitals play in the [Rebound Idaho](#) efforts.

He noted that the readiness of healthcare workers and their access to protective equipment and necessary resources remains one of the top considerations as Idaho begins to emerge from the shutdown.

A successful "rebound" relies heavily on the confidence Idahoans have to safely return to work and other activities. The Governor pointed out the strong influence and credibility healthcare workers have in building confidence within their communities to successfully function in this new normal.

Idaho's Health and Welfare Director, Dave Jeppesen, reported that the Testing Task Force will be providing testing criteria soon. The group is looking at plans to access more testing supplies and expanded contact tracing. As businesses re-open, hospital leaders pointed out that testing guidance from the state level will be important to make sure testing priorities are consistent with the goals of the state.

Governor Little extended two invitations to the group. In response to the concern about the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of many Idahoans, he encouraged healthcare leaders to share specific ideas that might stem the tide of issues hospitals are seeing. Other leaders pointed out the need for Idahoans to feel safe seeking care from their physicians, clinics and hospitals. Numerous stories of Idahoans waiting too long to seek care, sometimes with terminal outcomes, were shared. To that end, the Governor offered to share the message that Idaho's healthcare facilities are safe and healthcare teams are ready to provide care.

Resources & Equipment

Telehealth funding available

A second window to apply for funding is available through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program facilitated by the USDA (US Department of Agriculture). Grants will be awarded to help rural communities expand their telecommunications capabilities, overcoming remoteness and low population density. Up to \$25 million in CARES Act funding is available to recipients for projects designed to:

- Acquire eligible capital assets, such as:
 - Broadband transmission facilities
 - Audio, video and interactive video equipment
 - Terminal and data terminal equipment
 - Computer hardware, network components and software
 - Inside wiring and similar infrastructure
- Acquire instructional programming that is a capital asset
- Acquire technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

Awards will range between \$50,000 - \$1,000,000 and will require a 15% match. Hospitals which are non-profit, for-profit or governmental entities may apply.

More PPE donated to help providers

On the eve of National Hospital Week (May 10-16), Idaho's Office of Emergency Management received a welcome shipment of over 19,000 KN-95 masks, thanks to an attorney with one of Idaho's largest law firms. Hawley Troxell attorney John Kurtz recently contacted IHA about an opportunity for a donation of the hard-to-come-by masks from the A-Mark Foundation where he serves on the Board of Directors. The masks arrived this morning and will be distributed by IOEM to hospitals and healthcare providers throughout the state.

Quality & Patient Safety

DNV to conduct remote surveys

As many Idaho hospitals are accredited by DNV GL Healthcare (DNV GL), please note that remote surveys will now be conducted. According to their release, "DNV GL realizes that our clients face many challenges during the current COVID19 public health emergency. To support our certification clients during this time, the DNV GL Program Development & Certification section is commencing remote surveys for periodic reviews effective May 1, 2020. The Stroke Certification Program will be sending out a separate advisory notice. The certification survey team lead will coordinate with client contacts to establish agendas, determine a meeting platform to be used for the survey (e.g., SharePoint, Microsoft TEAMS), dates and times, required documents, etc."

New guidance for nursing home reporting

Beginning today, all nursing homes are required to [report COVID-19 data](#) directly to the CDC via NHSN's reporting system. While Idaho nursing homes are reporting to the state, CMS is requiring this additional level of reporting to "assist with national surveillance on the status of COVID-19 in all nursing homes." The CDC will be publicly posting the data.

IDHW is developing a process for data reported through Idaho Resource Tracking System (IRTS) to be transmitted to NHSN. Nursing homes will have to [register with the CDC](#) in order to have their data transmitted.

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