A tentative step into Stage 4

Governor Little announced today that Idaho is ready to move to Stage 4, albeit narrowly.

When evaluating the criteria for moving forward, the Governor and state health experts look at three data areas: syndromic (admissions and ED visits), epidemiologic (new cases and testing information), and healthcare capacity (ICU, ventilator, and healthcare worker availability).

One area of concern when evaluating the readiness of Idaho to move to Stage 4 was the number of healthcare workers with COVID-19, which saw an uptick between June 2-5 of up to five healthcare workers in a day. The benchmark is a downward trend or an average of two per day over a 14-day period. For May 27-June 9, the average was exactly two healthcare workers per day. The downward trend of reported cases for the last two weeks was also very slight as was the number of people presenting in emergency department with COVID-19-like symptoms.

The Governor did comment that in evaluating healthcare workers contracting COVID-19 over this period, that they did not become infected in the facilities but rather through routine contact with others outside of the hospital.

As Idaho enters Stage 4, long term care facilities will be able to modify visitation and other policies. Protocols for Long-Term Care Facilities were posted earlier today. Facilities are invited to submit their plans to the Division of Licensing and Certification for review, although it is not required, and are asked to make them available to the public.

Resources & Equipment

Planning for patient experience, risk management

Today, the AHA released additional resources in their COVID-19 Pathways to Recovery, a resource guide which provides considerations, questions, and checklists for hospitals as they resume safe services for their communities. Sections on the patient experience, transitions of care, and risk management have been added.