

COVID-19 Daily Report to Members ~ June 12, 2020



COVID-19 Update changes

We are hoping that we're approaching a more calm point in information and data flow surrounding the pandemic and don't want to overfill your inbox. We will send the COVID-19 Updates twice weekly, on Mondays and Thursdays, starting next week. Of course, if there's breaking news you need, we'll get it out ASAP.

IHA Awards

When we had to cancel our Annual Convention in October, the first thought for many here at IHA was what we'd do about our annual awards. Now, more than ever, we are committed to the tradition of recognizing a handful in the thousands of deserving people in our hospitals. It may not be in Sun Valley and there won't be a stage, but we do plan to showcase those who make a difference every day.

You've probably already figured out one of those special people to nominate, so don't delay. We're keeping nominations open until July 15 and cannot wait to read your submissions. For more information, visit our [website](#) and figure out who you might nominate for these awards:

- Steven A. Millard Star Garnet
- Trustee of the Year
- Award of Excellence in Patient Care
- Excellence in Medicine
- Special Recognition of Retirement
- Leader of Volunteer Excellence (LOVE)
- Jr. Volunteer of the Year

There are many deserving individuals across the state in every hospital. During this pandemic and before the world was turned upside down, they've been the rock you lean on, the "yes we can" leader you need, and the champion for your patients and community. Don't wait, send the information today. Sharing positive stories about the healthcare workers throughout our state is something we can't wait to do!

Reimbursement & Policy

Idaho steps back to "emergency" status

Governor Little signed a new [COVID-19 proclamation](#) yesterday. The nine-page document rescinds the Extreme Emergency Declaration of March 25th and returns to a State of Emergency based on the "...imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the effects of COVID-19".

The proclamation supersedes 10 previous proclamations, combining them into one. Included are agency rule suspensions, delayed state income tax deadlines and authorization for distribution of federal emergency funds for COVID-19 related activities. This public health emergency proclamation will be in effect for 30 days unless terminated, modified or extended.

Board of Pharmacy withdraws limitation rule

Yesterday, the Idaho Board of Pharmacy rescinded Rule 704 regarding medication limitations, which placed additional requirements on the dispensation of chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and oral azithromycin. Although the Board felt the additional requirements were no longer necessary, they did express their expectation that pharmacists would continue to use their professional judgement and consider the presence of inappropriate stockpiling. The rule change is effective immediately.

Resources & Equipment

JAMA article looks at post-COVID-19 reimbursement

In a sign that the world will eventually progress beyond the COVID-19 pandemic event, a recent JAMA article, [Sustaining Rural Hospitals After COVID-19: The Case for Global Budgets](#), supports the concept of global budgets for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs).

The article examines the global budget models being tested in Pennsylvania and Maryland. At last year's IHA Annual Convention, speakers were brought in from both states to share their expertise and experiences with these models. This model has also been examined by a Rural & Frontier Workgroup established by the Healthcare Transformation Coalition of Idaho (HTCI). The workgroup is co-chaired by Patt Richesin, President, Kootenai Health Network, and the IHA's VP of Finance, Larry Tisdale. The workgroup also has representation from several of IHA's CAH hospitals. The models examined in the article hold some merit, but as did the JAMA article's authors, the HTCI's workgroup found issues that must be resolved before global budgets could be considered a truly sustainable model.

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