

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ July 6, 2020

Reports are sent on Mondays and Thursdays, unless there's breaking news.



An open letter to America

National associations representing hospitals, doctors and nurses shared an [open letter to America today](#) urging all of us to do our part in curbing the impacts the pandemic is having. With many hospitals at or nearing capacity in states experience drastic upticks in cases, the need for slowing the spread is paramount to protect our communities and healthcare workers.

A thank you to hospital workers

In appreciation for the thousands of healthcare workers on the front lines in Idaho's hospitals, Tamarack Resort is offering them some much needed relaxation and respite.



Tamarack is partnering with IHA to offer two, single day mountain passes good for one year to all those employed by hospitals across the state.

"Idahoans have all been witness to the care, dedication and excellence those working at our community hospitals and clinics have shown during these unprecedented times," said IHA President and CEO Brian Whitlock. "We are grateful for community leaders like Tamarack that recognize the crucial work of these professionals and pay forward kindness with opportunities to recharge in Idaho's great outdoors."

Starting July 6, any employee of an IHA member hospital or hospital-based clinic can redeem the free passes for use by themselves or share with friends or family.

"Tamarack recognizes the hard work and endless hours Idaho's front-line health care providers have logged to serve those who have been impacted by COVID-19. This is one way of giving back and offering some time away for them to enjoy one of Idaho's majestic mountain playgrounds," said Tamarack President Scott Turlington.

To redeem their passes, guests can complete [this form](#) and bring it to the Tamarack ticket desk with their hospital/clinic ID card, or show up the day of use with their ID. The passes can be used throughout this summer as well as during the 20/21 ski season. The passes will provide access to scenic lift rides, mountain biking, hiking and skiing.

Reimbursement & Policy

NHSN data reporting updates

The CDC has updated the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) data collection tool, which is one of the systems most hospitals are reporting to either daily or periodically. Last week, changes to the Healthcare Supply Pathway (which includes PPE) were made as well as adding COVID-19 to the Healthcare Associated Events module and Remdesivir to the Antimicrobial Use module.

For PPE, NHSN is now asking for more granular data including "eaches" or the number of individual units available, if the hospital has remote storage for supplies as part of a health system, and if reusable gowns are being used.

A reporting field to identify patients with either confirmed or suspected COVID-19 was added to several of the Healthcare Associated Infections modules. The field is optional at this point but is expected to be required in January 2021.

For hospitals reporting in NHSN's Antimicrobial Use module, Remdesivir, which is being used to treat patients with severe COVID-19, has been added to the drug list. This reporting will be required for summary months from July 2020 onward.

For more information, please review this [July 3 memo](#).

CMS ends quality reporting waiver

On July 1, the CMS blanket waiver for Medicare quality reporting implemented in March ended. The waiver made it optional for hospitals to submit data for quality reporting and value-based payment programs from October 2019 through June 2020. Data from January 1 through June 30, 2020 is not being used for quality reporting. Hospitals may request an [exception to reporting](#) due to the pandemic or another event beyond their control.

Resources & Equipment

Idaho reporting dashboard now shows hospitalizations

As cases near 8,000 in Idaho, with over 1,100 reported between Friday and Sunday, and surges in hospitalizations become a distinct possibility, the Department of Health and Welfare has [updated its public dashboards](#) to include hospitalization data. Currently, the website has daily data from late March through July 1 and shows 75 currently hospitalized with 18 of those patients in an ICU bed.

Measuring the pandemic's fiscal impact on hospitals

In a new AHA report analyzing the financial strain facing America's community hospitals, it is expected that hospitals will lose about \$20.1 billion per month from July through December. This is on top of over \$200 billion in losses from the first half of 2020.

AHA's research indicates volume declines of nearly 20% for inpatient services and 35% for outpatient services through the remainder of the year. Those rates, however, do not account for the surges currently happening in many states.

For more information, view the AHA report [here](#).

Quality & Patient Safety

FDA recalls hand sanitizer

In June, a recall was issued for hand sanitizer manufactured by Eskbiochem SA de CV in Mexico sold under numerous product names. These sanitizers ([see the product list here](#)) contain methanol which can cause blindness and/or death when used on the skin or swallowed.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

Governor to discuss school reopening plan and Stage 4

On Thursday, Governor Little will talk about the reopening plan for Idaho's K-12 schools as well as Stage 4 of the Idaho Rebounds plan.

[Governor's Press Conference](#)  
Thursday, July 9 – 12p MTN / 11a PAC

Trustee webinar ~ High reliability in the midst of a pandemic

Trustees and CEOs are invited to join the Texas Healthcare Trustees for a complimentary webinar on how a defect-free patient experience would look during this pandemic. During this session, leadership and patient experience expert, Craig Deao, will discuss patient and worker safety during a pandemic; leadership and quality oversight; and maintaining patient and workplace trust.

**Bringing High Reliability to the Workplace and Bedside in the Midst of a Pandemic**

Tuesday, July 14 – 11a MTN / 10a PAC  
[Register](#)

Webinar ~ Decontaminating respirators

The FDA, CDC, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will discuss respirator decontamination systems, methods and effectiveness as well as their safe use by healthcare workers.

**Respirators for Health Care Personnel Use during COVID-19 Pandemic**

Tuesday, July 14 – 10a MTN / 9a PAC  
[Webinar Link / Slide Access](#)

Dial In: 888.455.1392 / Conference Number: PWXW1481963 / Passcode: 8437205

Click to get our COVID-19 Updates

Share this email:



Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™

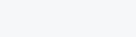
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.

View this email online.

615 N. 7th St.  
Boise, ID | 83701 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



Subscribe to our email list.