

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ July 9, 2020

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

Most of Idaho to remain in Stage 4

Not surprisingly, Governor Little opted not to allow the state to move beyond Stage 4 of the Idaho Rebounds plan for the next two weeks. Parts of Central District Health (Ada, Boise, Elmore & Valley counties), meanwhile, remain in Stage 3 until further notice. The Central District Health Board of Health is scheduled to meet on July 14. District Health departments and local governments in other parts of the state have also enacted or are considering measures to mitigate community spread.



In reviewing the metrics Governor Little uses to make decisions on how Idaho should proceed, State Epidemiologist Christine Hahn noted increases in both reported cases as well as increases in emergency department visits with COVID-like symptoms. One data point that is significantly higher than the previous reporting period was testing percent positivity. The baseline for moving Idaho ahead in reopening is 5% positivity or lower. In early June, Idaho was at 2.7% but the latest posting shows the state at 11.2%. In concert, these metrics indicate that COVID-19 transmission has increased in the past two weeks relative to the previous two-week period.

One bright note in the data for the last two weeks is a downward trend in the number of healthcare workers testing positive for the virus.

Much of the Governor's press conference focused on plans for K-12 education this fall as he unveiled the [Idaho Back to School Framework](#) which provides guidance to local school boards as they make decisions about how to safely resume school this fall.

Reimbursement & Policy

[IHA, others urge Congress to increase FMAP](#)

IHA is joining the National Governors Association, Council of State Governments, National Conference of State Legislatures and nearly 100 other organizations to advocate additional increases in FMAP in the next COVID relief bill.

The letter, which will be sent tomorrow, urges Congressional Leadership to add at least 5.8 percentage points to the FMAP retroactive to January 1, 2020. This is on top of the current FMAP increase of 6.2 percentage points. The additional expansion would remain in effect until September 30, 2021. At that point, the reduction in FMAP would not occur until the national unemployment rate falls below 5%.

Resources & Equipment

[FDA issues alert for BD Max System test](#)

The FDA announced issues with reagents for the BD Max System leading to some false positives.

In their [July 6 announcement](#), the FDA noted "an increased risk of a false positive result with BD SARS-CoV-2 Reagents for the BD Max System test. In one study, the manufacturer found approximately three percent (3%) of results were false positive results."

Laboratory staff are encouraged to consider any positive results using this system to be presumptive and to confirm with an alternative, authorized test.

[Alternative Care Site toolkit updated](#)

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) released the [Third Edition](#) of the Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force Alternate Care Site (ACS) Toolkit, providing enhanced guidance, including: updated directions, funding sources, guidance for dialysis support, temperature screen protocol, and more.

Quality & Patient Safety

[New learning community resource available](#)

AHA has created the Living Learning Network – a digital community for hospitals and health systems to discuss tools, resources, experiences and opportunities in relation to the pandemic.

In the community, healthcare leaders can examine operational and management priorities and discuss questions with experts and leaders across the nation. Those interested in participating in this peer-to-peer learning platform should be familiar with their hospital's COVID-19 response and prevention plans.

To join the group, please complete this [interest form](#). The kick-off meeting will be Thursday, July 16 at 12p MTN / 11a PAC.

Virtual Meetings, Education & Updates

[Webinar ~ Fortifying your supply chain](#)

AHA is hosting this free webinar with healthcare supply chain leaders who will share specific steps every hospital should take to create a more resilient, proactive and margin-enhancing supply chain.

How to Rapidly Fortify Your Supply Chain Before the Next Crisis
Tuesday, July 14 – 11a MT / 10a PAC

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