

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ November 12, 2020

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

Governor's COVID-19 press event

Governor Little will update Idahoans on Friday, November 13 at 1p MTN / 12p PAC. Live streaming will be available on [Idaho Public Television](#).

Reimbursement & Policy

Medicare to cover vaccines and treatments

This week, AHA released a [Regulatory Advisory](#) summarizing the CMS October 28 [interim final rule](#) establishing additional hospital payments for those beneficiaries seeking COVID-19 vaccines or treatments as they become available. Of note is that any FDA authorized or approved vaccines will be added as preventive vaccines under Medicare Part B and will be made available to beneficiaries without coinsurance or deductibles.

Resources & Equipment

Treatment receives EUA and will be distributed to hospitals

Vaccines and treatments have been big news this week. Following the announcement by Pfizer and BioNTech SE that they are close to requesting an EUA for their vaccine, Eli Lilly and Co.'s monoclonal antibody therapy to treat mild to moderate infections received an EUA.

The single antibody treatment, called bamlanivimab, is designed for both children and adults with mild to moderate symptoms who are at high-risk for more severe symptoms or hospitalization. Bamlanivimab is administered via IV infusion and is designed to kick-starts the body's immune response. It is the first monoclonal antibody to be authorized for use.

As with the initial distributions of remdesivir/Velkury, HHS will determine each states' weekly allotment and the Department of Health and Welfare will determine how to allocate that among healthcare facilities. AmerisourceBergen will be the distributor and arrange shipment directly to the facilities.

While Bamlanivimab is designed for non-hospitalized patients, HHS has directed that, [during this initial phase](#), the product will be exclusively sent to hospitals and hospital-affiliated locations. Hospitals and health systems interested in receiving an allocation should contact [Marcia Witte](#) at IDHW.

Medical Reserve Corps may be resource for hospitals

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a nationwide program of private citizens and medical and public health professionals who sign up to serve as community volunteers during emergencies and disasters. Medically trained MRC volunteers can administer immunizations, provide health education, and offer medical support. Some of the volunteers available include: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, EMTs, social workers, mental health counselors and others.

Each public health district has an assigned coordinator who can facilitate assistance requests. Please visit [Find My Medical Reserve Corps](#) to locate your area's assigned coordinator.

Webinars & Meetings

Webinar ~ HHS data reporting

HHS is hosting this webinar on the [October 6 guidance](#) which included the reporting requirements and enforcement processes for hospitals. Beginning next week, CMS will start sending enforcement notices to those hospitals who are not in compliance. Hospitals that did not receive the letter by email or mail or have specific enforcement questions may [email CMS](#).

Friday, November 13 ~ 11a MTN / 10a PAC

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