

Reimbursement & Policy

Enrolling Idaho hospitals for vaccine distribution

The Governor's Coronavirus Working Group received an update today on vaccine distribution plans from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The latest estimate of doses that will initially come to Idaho has been reduced from 60,000 to about 46,000. Healthcare and long-term care facility workers who are part of the CDC's Phase 1A priority populations will have access to the first available vaccines.

In order to administer those vaccinations, hospitals and other providers should have received a provider enrollment document. This is a one-time enrollment document that gives a provider site access to all of the vaccines that become available. Even if hospitals don't have the ability to meet the ultra-cold storage requirements of a certain vaccine, they must still complete and submit this provider enrollment agreement to access other vaccines.

To date, only 29 provider sites across the state (14 organizations) have completed the vaccine provider enrollment process. That is concerning to the Department of Health and Welfare as there are some estimates that a vaccine could be shipped to providers as early as next month. If you haven't yet completed your enrollment, please contact IDCOVID19vaccinators@dhw.idaho.gov to request the enrollment link be resent.

The Department acknowledges the enrollment process is extensive and cumbersome, but they will soon be staffing a hotline to assist and answer any questions from our hospitals and other providers needing to complete these agreements.

The State is also in the process of trying to purchase and deploy seven ultra-cold storage units, one to each region.

President-elect names COVID advisory team

Last week, President-elect Biden announced his [Transition COVID-19 Advisory Board](#). The board, comprised of public health experts, will advise the President-elect and the transition team. The board's co-chairs will be:

- Dr. David Kessler, MD ~ Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at UCSF. Dr. Kessler served as FDA Commissioner from 1990 to 1997, appointed by President George H.W. Bush and reappointed by President Bill Clinton.
- Dr. Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA ~ 19th Surgeon General of the United States from 2014-2017. As the Vice Admiral of the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, he commanded a uniformed service of 6,600 public health officers globally. The officers focused on helping underserved populations, protecting the nation from Ebola and Zika, responding to the Flint water crisis, and natural disasters such as hurricanes.
- Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS ~ Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Public Health, and Management at Yale University and the Associate Dean for Health Equity Research at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Nunez-Smith's research focuses on promoting health and healthcare equity for structurally marginalized populations.

Quality & Patient Safety

CMS announces extension and options for CLIA surveys

CMS noted that many state agencies and CMS locations have been unable to perform routine CLIA on-site surveys and may be experiencing a backlog of laboratories needing to be surveyed. As a result, they are extending laboratory certificates through December 31, so that no CLIA Certificate of Compliance or Certificate of Accreditation expires before a survey has occurred.

CMS recognizes states have different variables that may impact their ability to perform on-site CLIA surveys (e.g., COVID-19 hot spots, availability of surveyors, and travel limitations). They have provided an **option** to perform remote surveys whenever possible for recertification or re-visits on a **case by case basis**. A new **CMS memorandum reviews** this optional remote CLIA recertification survey process and includes a checklist for the CLIA remote survey process. The checklist is intended for surveyors but will also be helpful to any CLIA laboratories undergoing a remote survey.

Moderna shares vaccine news

Today, Moderna **shared** the news that its experimental vaccine is nearly 95% effective. The two-dose vaccine is now being tested on 30,000 participants in a Phase 3 study. The company expects to apply for emergency use authorization (EUA) in the coming weeks.

Today, ASPR's CMO, John Redd, MD, briefed hospitals and state hospital associations on the distribution and efficacy of the newest monoclonal antibody therapy – bamlanivimab. Click the image below to view the slides from that presentation.

Allocation Dashboard Maintained

<https://www.phe.gov/Bamlanivimab>

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