

Resources & Equipment

[Investigational convalescent plasma guidance](#)

This week, the FDA issued [final guidance](#) for those using investigational COVID-19 convalescent plasma. This guidance, which addresses plasma that does not meet all the conditions of the EUA or which is being used under a new drug application during this public health emergency, extends enforcement discretion through February. This extension will allow hospitalized patients to continue receiving the convalescent plasma until there is one produced that meets the EUA.

[Clarification on storage of Pfizer vaccine](#)

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's Public Health Preparedness & Response Section provided this clarification for storage of the anticipated Pfizer vaccine which requires ultra-cold storage.

The supply of dry ice for the FIRST recharge of the thermal shipping container (required within the first 24-hours after delivery of ultra-cold vaccine, if the vaccine won't be immediately transferred to an ultra-cold freezer) will be included with the vaccine shipment. Dry ice for any additional recharges of the thermal shipping container will need to be supplied by the provider. IIP (Idaho Immunization Program) and the PHPR (Public Health Preparedness & Response Section) Logistics Section will coordinate with the public health districts, tribal clinics, and hospitals to order these subsequent supplies of dry ice pellets for recharging the thermal shipping containers. We anticipate being able to do this through at least Phase 1a of vaccination.

Handling of dry ice requires special gloves. Pfizer will be providing information about this after an EUA is issued. Additional information about the handling of dry ice is available in the Carbon Dioxide or Dry Ice Material Data Safety Sheet.

The IIP has learned that the temperature monitor that comes with the thermal shipping container may be used to monitor the vaccine temperatures if the thermal shipping container is used for temporary storage. While the details have not been finalized, it is our understanding that the device, which is a temperature and location tracking monitor, will be disabled after the shipment has been received by the provider, and then reactivated for temperature monitoring only. Please keep in mind the thermal shipping container may only be used for the 15 days (with dry-ice recharges) and must be return within 20 days of receipt.

Quality & Patient Safety

[A plea for the holidays](#)

Representing a significant majority of healthcare workers, the AHA, American Medical Association, and American Nurses Association is calling on all Americans to change the way they celebrate the holidays and help stem the surge of COVID-19.

An open letter to the American people:

With Thanksgiving and the holiday season fast approaching and a deadly COVID-19 pandemic surging, we – the physicians, nurses, hospital and health system leaders and public health professionals on the front lines of this pandemic – strongly urge everyone throughout our country to celebrate responsibly, in a scaled-back fashion that limits the virus's spread, to help reduce the risk of infecting friends, family and others you love.

Throughout the pandemic, COVID-19 spread has followed a similar pattern around holidays and mass gatherings. Positive cases spiked after Memorial Day, after the Fourth of July, after Labor Day, and now – two weeks after Halloween. The record-shattering surge underway is resulting in uncontrolled community spread and infection that has already overburdened health systems in some areas and will ultimately consume capacity of our health care system and may reduce the availability of care in many places in our country.

In the strongest possible terms, we urge you to celebrate responsibly. We are all weary and empathize with the desire to celebrate the holidays with family and friends, but given the serious risks, we underscore how important it is to wear masks, maintain physical distancing and wash your hands. Following these science-based, commonsense measures is the best way to prevent our health care systems and dedicated health care professionals from being overwhelmed by critically ill patients. We must protect the doctors, nurses and other caregivers who have tirelessly battled this virus for months. You can do your part to ensure they can continue to care for you and your loved ones.

We will get through this pandemic, but the only way out is to follow the science and adhere to the public health steps we know work.

**In health,
American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association**

Virtual Meetings & Education

[Replay ~ HHS monoclonal antibody therapy update](#)

On Monday, ASPR's CMO, John Redd, MD, briefed hospitals and state hospital associations on the distribution and efficacy of the newest monoclonal antibody therapy – bamlanivimab. To listen to the replay, dial 1.877.919.4059 (code 14154461) and view the slides [here](#).

An IHA reminder for healthcare workers

A recent [story from CNN](#) reminded healthcare workers who have been on the frontlines of COVID for the past eight months that they may need to pause and look for opportunities to take care of their own mental health and well-being.

Recognizing the power of the outdoors to provide relaxation and respite, IHA partnered with Tamarack Resort to [offer two single-day lift passes](#) good through June 30, 2021 to all those employed by hospitals and medical clinics across the state.

After registering on-line, an email will then be sent to you to print out and present at the Tamarack ticket desk along with your hospital/clinic ID card. The two single-day lift passes can be used throughout the Winter 20/21 ski season without any blackout dates.

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