

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ January 4, 2021

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

Resources & Equipment

Vaccine update

This week, Idaho will receive another shipment of 13,650 doses of the Pfizer COVID vaccine. This shipment represents the second doses for healthcare workers who were first vaccinated during the week of December 14.

Idaho continues to transfer initial Pfizer doses into the pharmacy partnership program to vaccinate long-term care facility residents and workers. All of the initial Pfizer doses being sent to the state this week will be transferred to the pharmacy partnership program.

The first doses of the Moderna vaccine will also begin arriving in Idaho this week. The 9,700 Moderna vaccines will be distributed regionally to public health districts as follows:

- PHD 1 - 1,300
- PHD 2 - 500
- PHD 3 - 1,800
- PHD 4 - 3,300
- PHD 5 - 900
- PHD 6 - 800
- PHD 7 - 1,100

Beginning this week, the federal and state governments will follow this cadence for ordering and distributing COVID vaccines:

- Tuesday: Anticipated allocation posted in Tiberius
- Wednesday: Allocation is validated
- Thursday: Window opens for the state to allocate primary doses
- Thur-Sun: Planning of dose distribution by PHD determined
- Sun-Mon: Order placed for allocation
- Sunday: Ordering opens for second doses
- Mon-Thur: Vaccines delivered

After the pharmacy partnership program has administered its first and second doses to LTCFs, Idaho is projected to receive an average of 20,000 first doses each week.

In other vaccine news, the FDA recently updated the [provider fact sheet](#) and [FAQs](#) for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine regarding the number of doses in a vial.

Testing update

With Congress' approval for states to use their CARES Act monies into 2021, Idaho has allocated an additional \$550,000 to purchase 15,048 Abbott IDNow test kits. Those tests will be distributed weekly with a priority placed on rural facilities. This is roughly half the amount Idaho was receiving through the Federal Abbott IDNow program - which ends this week.

The State of Idaho has also used some of its CARES Act money to extend contracts with Molecular Testing Laboratories and Crush the Curve Idaho for CMS-required testing at long-term care facilities. The Idaho Bureau of Laboratories will monitor any potential changes in testing requirements as more and more LTCF residents and staff are vaccinated.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has purchased an additional 265,138 Vault Medical saliva-based PCR tests. Public health districts will distribute these to high priority populations with an emphasis on schools and rural EMS agencies. To date, Idaho has received 343,720 of the 530,000 BinaxNOW tests that were allocated from the federal government. Those tests have been distributed by the public health districts to hospitals, schools, tribes, primary care clinics, and prisons. The Governor's testing task force will meet this week to discuss a possible broader distribution for the remaining BinaxNOW tests.

Finally, last week, the CDC [updated guidance](#) clarifying PPE recommendations for personnel collecting test specimens in point-of-care settings versus those handling specimens but not involved in the collection.

Virtual Meetings & Education

Weekly state vaccine briefings

Beginning Tuesday, January 5, Governor Little and the Department of Health and Welfare will hold weekly briefings to discuss vaccine progress and news.

COVID Vaccine Briefing
Tuesday, January 5 ~ 2:30p MTN / 1:30p PAC
[View weekly briefing here](#)

Replay ~ CDC Update from Dec. 30

On December 30, the CDC hosted a COVID update. One key focus was the new variants found in both the United Kingdom as well as in South Africa. To replay the audio, click [here](#).

Replay ~ Update on vaccine

Also last week, the CDC hosted an overview of recommendations for use of vaccines in certain populations including more about the recent reports of anaphylaxis following vaccination. The CDC's updated clinical considerations around contraindications and precautions to vaccination was also presented. For the slides and a replay of the webinar, click [here](#).

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