

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ January 21, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Biden focuses on pandemic with flurry of orders

Following his inauguration yesterday, President Biden took swift action issuing 28 executive orders, half of which were focused on the pandemic. His initial orders stopped the withdrawal of the US from the World Health Organization (WHO) and named Dr. Anthony Fauci as the head of the US delegation; launched a 100 Days Masking Challenge; and created the COVID-19 Response Coordinator who will report directly to the president.

Other orders focus on expanding the availability of vaccines, masking in airports and other forms of public transportation, and creating federally-supported community vaccination centers through FEMA. For details of the orders, visit the [White House Briefing Room](#).

Changes for reporting lost revenue

HHS issued revised reporting requirements for hospitals and providers for provider relief funding on January 15. The changes impact the reporting timeline and the process for calculating lost revenue.

HHS had previously indicated they would open a provider reporting portal last week with a deadline of February 15. Providers may only [register in the new portal](#) while the reporting date has yet to be determined. Any recipient of provider relief funds totaling more than \$10,000 must register in the portal and will be required to report.

HHS also [announced](#) that hospitals and providers can now use several methods to calculate lost revenue:

- the difference between 2019 and 2020 actual patient care revenue;
- the difference between 2020 budgeted and 2020 actual patient care revenue, using a budget that was established and approved prior to March 27, 2020; or
- any other reasonable method, which providers must describe and justify its use.

Quality & Patient Safety

Hospital surveys to be limited during pandemic

CMS has [updated survey guidance](#), placing limitations on the process as they acknowledge the extreme pressure many hospitals are under. The new restrictions are in place for 30 days and can be renewed.

Hospital Complaint Surveys are limited to immediate jeopardy complaint allegations with CMS prioritizing onsite investigations based on imminent danger to patients, likelihood of noncompliance with the Conditions of Participation (CoPs), and whether immediate action must be taken to protect patients.

Hospital Recertification Surveys are suspended, with the exception of a specific subset which will be detailed in future guidance. Accrediting organizations will be directed to suspend reaccreditation surveys for 30 days .

Hospital Enforcement Actions that do not represent immediate jeopardy will have their termination date extended for at least 30 days. Hospitals with an uncorrected incident of immediate jeopardy will have an onsite survey.

Resources & Equipment

DHW vaccine update

In its Tuesday COVID-19 Vaccine Media Briefing (replay the video below), the Department of Health and Welfare announced [COVID-19 grants to help providers](#) administering vaccines. The grants can be used for resources, staffing and supplies that increase vaccine administration across the state, maintain safe storage and handling, ensure equitable distribution, and support timely and accurate reporting. Providers can receive \$15 per first dose of administered vaccines and \$25 for second doses.

DHW also reported that a total of 163,975 doses of COVID-19 vaccines will have been received in the state by the end of this week. At this time, the DHW expects to receive about 20,950 doses each week; however, with the new administration announcing plans to expedite the process that could change soon. The video also includes a review of the process for obtaining the vaccines each week.



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