

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ January 25, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Governor addresses Legislature's plan to end emergency.

On Friday, IHA sent an update following Governor Little's statewide address regarding Idaho's COVID-19 emergency declaration. For detailed information as well as resources for contacting your local legislators, please read our [IHA Bulletin](#).

Federal emergency declaration to stay in place

On Friday, the Biden Administration **notified** the nation's governors it anticipates keeping the federal public health emergency declaration in effect through 2021. The latest 90-day renewal of the emergency declaration began on January 21.

The federal declaration allows states to receive a temporary 6.2 percentage point increase in the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). Recognizing Idaho and every other state will have increased healthcare costs because of the pandemic, the letter to governors said, "with the extension and additional advance notice, we seek to provide you with increased budgetary stability and predictability during this challenging time." This funding can be a substantial benefit to the Medicaid budget which as seen an increase in both enrollment and costs in the current fiscal year and in the projections for FY2022.

IHA's President, Brian Whitlock noted, "This is good news for Idaho's healthcare system. This one-time funding can easily address one-time issues related to both the launch of Medicaid expansion and the pandemic without added pressure on the state general fund."

Other flexibilities including the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act declarations and emergency use authorizations (EUA) for diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines will continue as well. HHS said it will give states 60 days' notice before it decides to terminate the declaration or let it expire.

Quality & Patient Safety

Vaccine reaction reports

On Friday, the CDC released a new **report** on allergic reactions in those receiving their first dose of the Moderna vaccine. Between December 21, 2020 and January 10, 2021, more than four million people received their first vaccine dose. Of those, there were 10 reported cases of anaphylaxis – or about 2.5 cases per one million doses. All received epinephrine with four treated in an emergency department and six being hospitalized. Nine of the episodes occurred within 15 minutes of receiving the vaccine and the other one happened after 30 minutes. No deaths were reported.

A similar **study** on the Pfizer vaccine showed 21 cases of anaphylaxis. This study reviewed approximately 1.9 million first doses occurring between December 14-23, 2020. While the episodes of anaphylaxis are higher, it is still a rare occurrence with 11.1 cases per one million doses.

The CDC has reminded all providers administering COVID-19 vaccines to adhere to its **guidance**, including screening recipients for contraindications and precautions, having the necessary supplies available to manage anaphylaxis, implementing the recommended postvaccination observation periods, and immediately treating suspected cases of anaphylaxis with intramuscular injection of epinephrine.

Governor Little issued a proclamation last week in support of Idaho's hospitals and the work they have done and continue to do to support their communities during this pandemic.



Resources & Equipment

Idaho vaccine timeline and provider update

The Department of Health and Welfare updated the **vaccine distribution timeline** this week to reflect a "to be determined" date for the group which includes Idahoans 65 and older. A schedule for this group, which includes about 250,000 people, is expected this week. Meanwhile, the number of providers enrolled with the state to administer vaccines has gone up 26% in the last few days to 349 locations throughout the state.

Provider Enrollment Update (as of 1/24/2021) 3

- 349 Enrolled Provider Locations
 - District 1 – 43 Enrolled
 - District 2 – 17 Enrolled
 - District 3 – 56 Enrolled
 - District 4 – 90 Enrolled
 - District 5 – 51 Enrolled
 - District 6 – 45 Enrolled
 - District 7 – 47 Enrolled
- 44 Provider Locations In Process



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