

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ February 1, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Additional reimbursement available for SNFs

The Department of Health and Welfare is offering skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) additional reimbursement to help expand hospital capacity by safely discharging patients who no longer need acute care but still require skilled nursing care. From December 1, 2020, SNFs which admit patients directly from an Idaho hospital can receive \$30,000 for each patient. This special and temporary reimbursement is available through CARES Act funds received by the state and will end when the funds have been used. Questions and a completed [application](#) can be sent to alc@dhw.idaho.gov.

Idaho COVID-19 Vaccination Information



The state's vaccine information page has been expanded to help Idahoans stay current on when they will qualify to receive their vaccine, locations where the vaccines are being administered, and other important information.

Quality & Patient Safety

COVID-19 and neurological disorders

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has [launched a database](#) to track neurological symptoms associated with COVID-19. The data, collected from clinicians, includes symptoms, complications, comorbidities, outcomes, and the effects of COVID-19 on pre-existing neurological conditions.

"We know that COVID-19 can disrupt multiple body systems but the effects of the virus and the body's response to COVID-19 infection on the brain, spinal cord, nerves and muscle can be particularly devastating, and contribute to persistence of disability even after the virus is cleared," said Barbara Karp, M.D., program director at the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Global Unique Identifiers (GUID) will be used to recognize data and biospecimens from individuals; however, no personally identifying information will be collected or stored. Data can be accessed by scientists for research studies on preventing, managing, and treating neurological complications associated with COVID-19.

Resources & Equipment

OSHA guidance for workplace safety

OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) has provided [new guidance](#) on mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. The information is designed to help employers and workers as they plan and establish control measures. The information is considered advisory and is not regulatory. A few of the recommendations include:

- assigning a workplace coordinator;
- identifying where and how employees might be exposed at work;
- identifying measures to limit spread in the workplace; and
- considering protections for those at higher risk for severe illness.

The guidance has additional recommendations, industry specific information, and more.

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