

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ February 4, 2021

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

Resources & Equipment

Overcoming vaccine hesitancy ~ research and messaging

The Ad Council – the nonprofit organization responsible for Rosie the Riveter, Smokey the Bear, the polio vaccine, and other successful public health and safety campaigns – has released market research regarding COVID vaccine hesitancy.

The Council is sharing this work with hospitals, healthcare providers and others in hopes of improving the reach and impact of vaccine messaging across the country. In addition to this [presentation of the research](#), resources to help craft messaging are also provided:

- [messaging recommendations](#)
- audience insights for the [general population](#), [Black Americans](#) and [Hispanic Americans](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [healthcare provider videos](#)

Vaccination resources

As vaccination programs ramp up to accommodate more Idahoans, the Department of Health and Welfare has provided additional resources to help hospital employees and others answer questions the public has been asking. The new webpage helps Idahoans understand [when and where to get their vaccines](#), while this [graphic](#) explains the process of ordering and receiving vaccines in the state.

TeleTracking, the site where hospitals send both their capacity and vaccination data, has updated their [FAQs](#) to clarify information on reporting vaccine-related data.

Reimbursement & Policy

New information about SNF funding opportunity

Yesterday, the Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Licensing and Certification sent the following regarding the funding available to skilled nursing facilities that admit COVID-positive patients from hospitals.

Since the original announcement about this funding opportunity was issued on January 29th, we have received clarification about the qualifying criteria for reimbursement. The clarification significantly impacts requests the Department has already received, so we have also included instructions in this announcement for resubmitting reimbursement requests.

The changes resulting from the clarification we received are:

1. The reimbursement is for SNF admissions of COVID-positive patients directly from Idaho hospitals, and
2. A SNF cannot seek this specific reimbursement for any resident for whom the facility already claimed the \$54 per resident, per day add-on rate that is part of the \$10 million CARES Act grant approved by the Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee in August 2020.

Also, in order to streamline the processing of requests, we specified in the Request Form and in the FAQ document what documentation is needed to demonstrate that an admission meets the criteria for reimbursement.

The [Reimbursement Request form](#) has been revised with the changes highlighted in red font. We will be returning the requests submitted since January 29th with instructions for the facility to review the request they submitted, revise the request based on the clarification of the eligibility criteria and required documentation, and resubmit their requests to Cindy.Stevens@dhw.idaho.gov. Requests need to be sent directly to Cindy because we also learned we are unable to open attachments to facility-encrypted emails sent to the shared mailbox we previously provided.

Here's what facilities need to do:

1. Review the revised [Reimbursement Request form](#) and the [FAQ document](#).
2. When we return your original submission, please review it and create a new request that aligns with the reimbursement criteria and is on the revised request form dated February 3, 2021.
3. Please send your revised request to Cindy.Stevens@dhw.idaho.gov

We will not process any requests submitted using the version of the request form sent to SNFs on January 29th. The request must be submitted using the request form with a revision date of February 3, 2021.

We apologize for any inconvenience these changes create for facilities.

Virtual Meetings & Education

Replay ~ CDC Treating Long COVID

For some people, the effects of COVID-19 can last well beyond the immediate illness. Patients and clinicians across the United States are reporting long-term effects of COVID-19, commonly referred to as long COVID. During this COCA Call, [presenters will share their firsthand experiences with treating long COVID](#), focusing on the pulmonary, neurologic, and psychological aspects. They will also describe their experiences with establishing clinics to provide care for patients with these long-term effects.

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