

## Reimbursement & Policy

### Guidance for Idaho vaccine administration

While recommending providers avoid a general practice of using booster doses as first doses, the Department of Health and Welfare told the Governor's Working Group today there are **some** circumstances where a second dose can be used as a first dose:

- the recipient of the first dose had a reaction and will not be getting their second dose;
- the recipient has not returned for their second dose after more than 42 days and not responded to patient contact efforts; or
- the recipient of the first dose has indicated they will not be returning for their second dose.

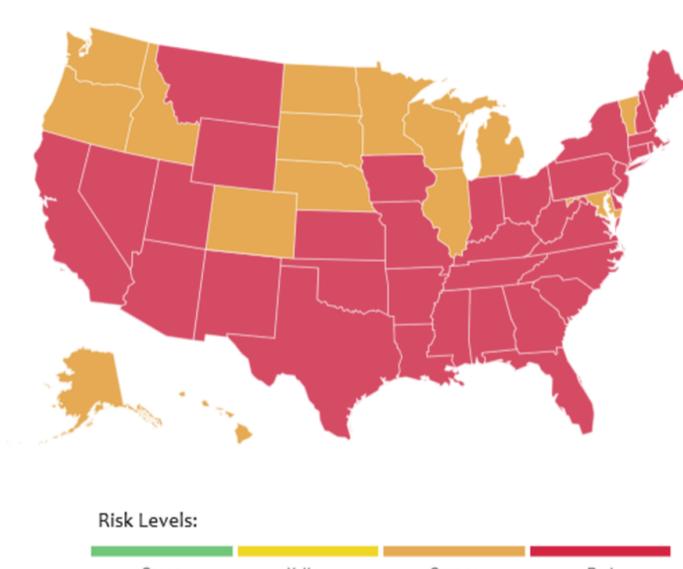
In other Idaho vaccine news, the Idaho COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC) sent new recommendations to Governor Little on Friday. If he approves, these recommendations would change the current priority groups for vaccination.

- CVAC reversed a previous vote that placed adult family members who provide in-home personal care in Group 1.2, which is currently eligible for vaccine. With Friday's vote, that population has been removed from Group 1.2 and will be reconsidered at a later date.
- CVAC voted to include a subset of essential gas, electric, and water utility workers who work indoors in Group 2.3, which is expected to be eligible for the vaccine later this month.
- CVAC voted to have interpreters (ASL or other language) vaccinated with the sector and setting in which they work.
- CVAC voted against having construction workers vaccinated with the sector for which they are doing the construction.
- CVAC voted against placing licensed massage therapists with physical therapists in Group 1.4, which is eligible for vaccine right now.
- CVAC voted against including certified Pilates instructors with physical therapists in Group 1.4.
- CVAC voted against including immigration legal services in Group 2.1, which is eligible for the vaccine right now.

The Governor will consider these recommendations and approve, reject, or modify them. CVAC is scheduled to meet again on February 19.

### Convalescent plasma updates

The FDA has reissued the EUA for convalescent plasma and **revised some of the guidance**. Convalescent plasma is a treatment for hospitalized COVID patients. Based on additional clinical trials, the FDA clarified the authorization's limit to high-titer convalescent plasma hospitalized patients early in the disease and for those with impaired humoral immunity. The acceptable tests to qualify for high-titer convalescent plasma were also revised.



**Idaho is currently among the lowest in the nation for daily new cases per capita. For the latest seven-day calculation, Idaho is averaging 22.8 new cases per day per 100,000 people. Only 11 states have a better average, with Hawaii at the top of the list with 13.5 cases.**

## Resources & Equipment

### Vaccine tracker now available

Announced by the Governor in late January, a new **vaccine tracker** is now available showing the number of vaccine doses individual providers and local public health districts have been allocated and the number that remain to be administered.

As of today, 71% of the doses received in Idaho have been administered. Notes about the data that is being reported include:

- "Distributed doses" include first and second doses. Some doses that appear to have not been administered yet may be scheduled for an appointment or may not be reported in the state's immunization system yet because providers have 72 hours to report after a dose has been given.
- The number of doses that remain to be administered could include a share of second doses that arrived early and cannot be administered yet because the second dose must be given at least 21 days for Pfizer and 28 days for Moderna after the first dose.
- Idaho currently receives just over 25,000 first doses every week. The doses are shipped directly from the manufacturer to local public health districts based on population. The local public health districts are responsible for distribution to enrolled providers in their district. Some local public health districts will store doses for providers if necessary.
- Everyone seeking a vaccine should make an appointment and keep their appointment. Information on when and where to receive vaccine is available [here](#).

### Third vaccine candidate being reviewed

The FDA has scheduled a review of the Johnson & Johnson / Janssen Biotech vaccine candidate. If the request for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) is granted, it would allow for a third publicly available vaccine.

This vaccine is administered as a single-dose and is estimated to remain stable for two years at -4 degrees. It can be stored in most standard refrigerators for at least three months, according to the company's [announcement](#).

The FDA's Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) will consider the EUA application on Friday, February 26.

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