

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ February 11, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Vaccine availability and data collection

Idaho has designated Albertsons and Walmart as the pharmacy partners for the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#). The additional doses received by the pharmacies, about 5,000 per week, increases Idaho's weekly allotment to 30,000 doses. Vaccines for this program are sent directly to the pharmacy partners. Walmart **announced** they will administer vaccines at ten locations, beginning tomorrow. Albertsons has also set up an [appointment app](#) to schedule vaccinations.

In other vaccine news, the Department of Health and Welfare has announced it will allow providers and vaccinators to record race and ethnicity of those receiving a COVID vaccine in IRIS (Idaho's Immunization Reminder Information System). The modifications to the system have been made and the state expects data beginning this weekend. Patients have the option of providing race and ethnicity data. However, the decision does not impact their eligibility to receive a vaccine.

Quality & Patient Safety

Monoclonal cocktail authorized

The FDA authorized the use of an antibody cocktail of bamlanivimab and etesevimab to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in patients 12 years and older, as well as patient 65 and older with certain conditions. This cocktail is targeted to those who are at high risk for progressing to severe disease but are not yet hospitalized or on oxygen. For details on administering the infusion, please see the [provider fact sheet](#).

Resources & Equipment

A deep dive into variants

An article in the New York Times is a great [primer on the COVID-19 variants and mutations](#) currently circling the globe. The article includes graphics and maps detailing the differences between the variants as well as where they are currently being found. Contagion of the strains and their responses to vaccines are also discussed.



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