

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ March 4, 2021

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

Vaccine registration goes live tomorrow

Idaho's vaccine registration site will go live tomorrow at 9a MT. The intent of the site is to allow Idahoan's to sign up at one location to receive a vaccine appointment from any of a number of providers instead of making multiple calls to locate available appointments.

Idahoans will be able to sign up beginning tomorrow by entering basic information, counties to which they are willing to go for vaccination, and selecting from specific providers or opt for the first available appointment. They must qualify by either age or the priority groups currently eligible for vaccination. Attestations explain to the registrant that their name must match the proof of identification they will bring to the appointment. Once they register, they will receive a confirmation email and be placed on the registration list.

The process for providers to participate in the system also begins tomorrow when the primary point of contact listed on the vaccination enrollment receives the registration invitation via email. If your organization needs to make changes to the point of contact, contact [Greg Kunz](#) at DHW. Once the primary contact has set up the provider's account, they are able to enter additional users for their facility who can pull lists from the system.

Facilities which participate are listed as "preferred providers" in the system for those seeking vaccinations. However, non-participation does not impact providers' ability to receive vaccines or their authorization to administer them. They will just not be on the list of providers shown in the system to prospective patients.

Beginning Saturday, providers will be able to pull batches of vaccine seekers. The batch size is determined two ways. First, health departments will set a maximum batch size based on the provider's vaccine allocation. However, we were told today that limitation may not be up and running yet. The second limitation is self-imposed by the providers. When determining the size of an individual batch, providers are asked to make sure they can contact and set appointments for everyone on that list within 10 days.

The provider then downloads the batch in Excel format. There is no automatic linkage between the registration system and a provider's scheduling system. Once a batch is requested, the vaccine seeker is assigned to that provider and will not show up on any other lists. They receive an email indicating they should receive a call from the provider within 10 days to set an appointment. Providers can pull multiple batches in a day to allow them to schedule as it fits their workflow.

Other than entering the vaccination information in IRIS, the provider does not have any other reporting requirements in the registration system once the appointment is set or completed. If an appointment is not set after 10 days, the individual will have the option of relisting themselves on the site. At this point there isn't an option for a provider to return an individual to the open list should they not be able to reach them or get an appointment scheduled.

Providers who would like to provide a link from their website to the registration site (covidvaccine.idaho.gov) can email [Greg Kunz](#) at DHW for graphics. Recordings of this week's training sessions are expected to be posted by next week.

Reimbursement & Policy

Grant funding for vaccines revised

With the Johnson & Johnson vaccine being made available to Idahoans beginning this week, grant funding for vaccine providers announced in January has now been updated to include the new vaccine. The state is providing grants to enrolled vaccine providers for both doses of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. Providers must complete the [application](#) and commit to having administered doses entered into IRIS within seven days. Hospitals and providers can apply to receive \$15 for each first dose and \$25 for each second dose. This week, DHW reported providers can receive \$20 for the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Clarification for SNFs taking COVID patients

For skilled nursing facilities admitting COVID-positive residents from Idaho hospitals, DHW has clarified their ability to receive supplemental reimbursement.

In addition to the \$54 per day add-on rate, DHW is making \$30,000 in reimbursement available. SNFs can claim the daily amount but it will be deducted from the \$30,000 reimbursement.

To qualify for the \$30,000 reimbursement:

- the resident must have been admitted directly from an Idaho hospital on or after December 1, 2020;
- the resident must have tested positive for COVID-19 within the 14 days prior to admission to the SNF; and
- the facility must provide the documentation of the discharge/admission as outlined in the reimbursement request form.

SNFs that have already submitted a request for reimbursement are asked to complete an [Addendum to Reimbursement Request for SNF Admissions](#). Those that have not yet requested reimbursement should complete both the [Addendum](#) and the [Reimbursement Request](#). All forms should be sent to alc@dhw.idaho.gov.

Resources & Equipment

NHSN maintenance outage

NHSN (National Healthcare Safety Network) will be unavailable today from 7 pm ET to midnight for planned maintenance upgrades. Users should plan to log off prior to the shutdown and will not have access to NHSN for logins, data set generation, etc.

At-home test receives EUA

The FDA, this week, [issued](#) an EUA for the [Quidel QuickVue At-Home COVID-19 Test](#). Available by prescription, this antigen test allows users to collect and test their samples at home without the need for lab analysis. The test is authorized for suspected COVID within the first six days of symptom onset. Self-collection is allowed for those 14 years and older. For those 8 years and older, samples need to be collected by an adult.

Virtual Meetings & Education

CVAC to discuss Idaho vaccine priority groups

Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow from 12p-2p MTN to discuss further clarifications for the first three priority groups. The group serves in an advisory capacity to Governor Little.

CVAC Meeting
Friday, March 5 ~ 12p MTN / 11a PAC
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