

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ March 30, 2021

Reports are sent on Tuesdays, unless there's breaking news.

Vaccine update

Today, DHW Director Dave Jeppesen reported that Idaho will receive about 82,000 first doses this week, including some of the single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. By Monday, April 5, any Idahoan 16 or older is eligible to receive a vaccine. DHW officials did note that providers who are currently experiencing open appointments can reach out to the general public provided they make a good faith effort to schedule those in the current eligibility group which includes those 16 or older with at least one health condition.

DHW is also tracking vaccine breakthrough cases occurring in fully vaccinated people. In Idaho, there have been 97 breakthrough cases to date, which is less than 1% of fully vaccinated Idahoans. Of those cases, half have been asymptomatic and were tested for reasons other than illness, such as for work or travel. Among those who did experience symptoms, 80% had mild to moderate symptoms. Three individuals, all who were at high risk for serious illness, did require hospitalization.

As the supply of vaccine continues to increase, DHW, the health districts and others are investigating strategies to reach more Idahoans. Vaccination clinics with large employers, expanding to more community locations, and vaccinations for home bound individuals are being considered across the state. DHW has also started a series of [ads](#) to help encourage more Idahoans to get vaccinated.

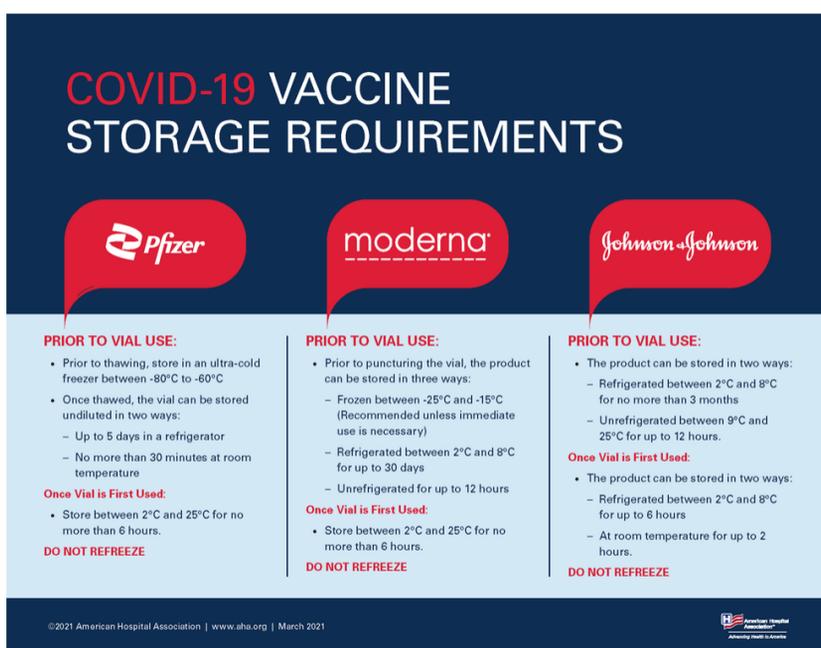
Reimbursement & Policy

Hospital surveys to resume

On March 23, CMS [instructed surveyors and state agencies](#) to resume surveys for all complaints. Since January, the agency had limited survey activities to only immediate jeopardy complaints.

Any complaints which are not immediate jeopardy must be investigated within 45 days of the resumption of surveying. Those hospitals which were to submit a Plan of Correction (POC) during the survey hiatus must now submit their delayed POCs by April 2 (10 days from the resumption of surveys).

CMS also clarified that federal and state surveyors are not required to be vaccinated and must be permitted entry into facilities unless they exhibit COVID symptoms. Surveyors should adhere to infection prevention protocols and any state requirements.



COVID-19 VACCINE STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Pfizer	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
<p>PRIOR TO VIAL USE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to thawing, store in an ultra-cold freezer between -80°C to -60°C Once thawed, the vial can be stored undiluted in two ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 5 days in a refrigerator No more than 30 minutes at room temperature <p>Once Vial is First Used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store between 2°C and 25°C for no more than 6 hours. <p>DO NOT REFREEZE</p>	<p>PRIOR TO VIAL USE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior to puncturing the vial, the product can be stored in three ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frozen between -25°C and -15°C (Recommended unless immediate use is necessary) Refrigerated between 2°C and 8°C for up to 30 days Unrefrigerated for up to 12 hours <p>Once Vial is First Used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store between 2°C and 25°C for no more than 6 hours. <p>DO NOT REFREEZE</p>	<p>PRIOR TO VIAL USE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The product can be stored in two ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refrigerated between 2°C and 8°C for no more than 3 months Unrefrigerated between 9°C and 25°C for up to 12 hours. <p>Once Vial is First Used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The product can be stored in two ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refrigerated between 2°C and 8°C for up to 6 hours At room temperature for up to 2 hours. <p>DO NOT REFREEZE</p>

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The AHA released this infographic to help hospitals, health systems and other immunization partners thoroughly understand each vaccine's storage requirements.

Virtual Meetings & Education

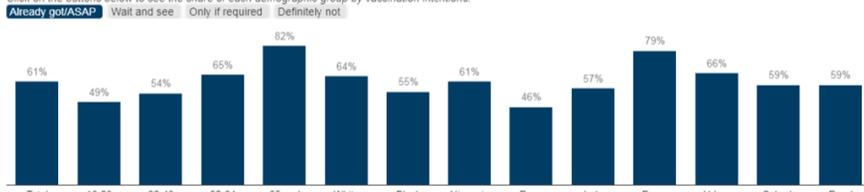
Replay ~ Round-Robin: From Variants to Long-Haulers

ECHO Idaho is sharing its [SARS CoV2 Round-Robin: From Variants to Long-Haulers](#) featuring Idaho physicians and medical staff discussing the latest stats, issues and answering participant questions.

Resources & Equipment

Does The Public Want To Get A COVID-19 Vaccine? When?

Click on the buttons below to see the share of each demographic group by vaccination intentions:



As part of its work on healthcare issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation has released an ongoing research project tracking the public's attitudes and experiences with COVID-19 vaccinations.

[Click to get our COVID-19 Updates](#)

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