



## COVID-19 Report to Members ~ May 4, 2021

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

### Reimbursement & Policy

#### Vaccine confidence and administration resources

New resources have been developed to help hospitals and providers as they continue to inform and educate their communities on the benefits and availability of vaccines.

Funding is now available through the Department of Health and Welfare to **establish and operate mobile, off-site, walk-in and other vaccination clinics** for underserved populations. Up to \$500,000 per applicant is available with a total of \$9 million being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis according to the application information.

HHS has also launched a vaccination funding program to **reimburse providers who administer vaccines** to patients enrolled in health plans that either do not cover vaccination fees or include patient cost-sharing. The COVID-19 Coverage Assistance Fund (CAF) will reimburse providers at national Medicare rates for those insured individuals whose plans do not fully cover vaccines.

As hospitals refine and implement plans to vaccinate their communities, the Kaiser Family Foundation has released a new attitudes study that might be of use in messaging to certain groups. The **KFF COVID-19 vaccine monitor** is an analysis of job classifications and demographics of essential workers and their attitudes toward the COVID vaccines.

Lastly, DHW has begun airing the next installment in their **vaccine confidence ad series**, which is available for hospitals and providers to feature on their websites.

### Quality & Patient Safety

#### Vaccine pause lifted

After pausing the use of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine in mid-April, the CDC's ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) **reaffirmed its recommendation** in support of the vaccine last week.

After reviewing the data on the cases of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS), the committee noted that the vaccine's "known and potential benefits outweigh its known and potential risks." The **FDA concurred** and both agencies recommended the pause be lifted.

While rare, they did advise that women under 50 years old should be aware of the risk and noted that other vaccine options are available.

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