

## Ending unemployment, moving to Stage 4

As Idaho continues to recover from the pandemic, Governor Little announced two key policy changes today to support continued prosperity. In an effort to meet the needs of Idaho's growing economy, he announced an [end to Idaho's participation in three federal unemployment compensation programs](#). In addition, he [moved Idaho to Stage 4 of the Stay Healthy Guidelines](#) based on the decrease in cases.

Citing the needs of employers to recruit and retain workers, the Governor said, "We see 'Help Wanted' signs everywhere. Idaho has the strongest economy in the nation, and we are a top 10 state for best employment, but there is more we can do. It's time to get back to work. A strong economy cannot exist without workers returning to a job."

Idaho is participating in three federal pandemic-related programs – the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) which provides an additional \$300 weekly payment; the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for self-employed and other workers who wouldn't usually qualify for unemployment; and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) which provides an extended time frame for benefits. All three will end effective June 19.

In April, Idaho also reinstated the work search requirements for those on unemployment, meaning anyone receiving unemployment must document their work search efforts in order to stay eligible.

Regarding the Stay Healthy guidelines, the Governor cited Idaho's progress in lowering the number of cases and the ability of hospitals to provide care as normal. Idaho's current seven-day average is 8.6 cases per 100,000 with a positivity rate of 4.3%. Hospitals report a declining number of hospitalized COVID patients with 83% of hospitals providing care as normal.

## Reimbursement & Policy

### [CDC to review vaccine EUA for youth after FDA decision](#)

Yesterday, the [FDA expanded the EUA](#) for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to include those aged 12-15 years. The safety data reviewed included more than 2,000 participants in the age group, half of which received the vaccine. The reported side effects were similar to the adult population, including injection site pain, tiredness, headaches, chills, muscle pain, fever, or joint pain which lasted up to three days.

After issuing the modified EUA, the FDA also released a revised [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) and one for [Recipients and Caregivers](#) which further outline the benefits and risks.

The CDC's ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices) is scheduled to [meet tomorrow](#) at 1p MT / 12p PAC to determine its ruling on the issue and offer recommendations for vaccinating this group.

For providers, it is important to note that insurance will not cover the cost of the vaccine for those aged 12-15 years until after ACIP approves the FDA recommendation. If approved tomorrow, vaccinations could begin as early as Thursday. Health and Welfare is advising providers not to administer the vaccine to this age group until ACIP has issued its decision and sends out the documentation.

### [Vaccination funding available for small, rural hospitals](#)

Rural hospitals, CAHs, and rural health clinics will [share nearly \\$1 billion in federal funding](#) to boost vaccination efforts across the country.

The Biden Administration has expressed a goal of at least 70% of adults receiving an initial vaccine by July 4. In support of this, HHS plans to issue up to \$230,000 each to approximately 1,750 CAHs and small rural hospitals as well as up to \$100,000 each to more than 4,600 rural health clinics.

In addition, nonprofits with public health partnerships and experience may apply for funding for vaccination and outreach programs directed to vulnerable and medically underserved communities. Additional information on federal efforts to expand vaccination can be found [here](#).

## FROM CONCERN TO CONFIDENCE: How Physicians Can Build Trust in COVID-19 Vaccines

*This resource for providers and healthcare workers includes talking points and other suggestions for engaging with patients about the COVID vaccines.*

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

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

615 N. 7th St.  
Boise, ID | 83701 US

This email was sent to .  
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma