



## COVID-19 Report to Members ~ May 25, 2021

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

### Reimbursement & Policy

#### New storage rules for Pfizer vaccine

Last week, the FDA authorized longer refrigerator storage of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine which will make it more widely available.

When frozen, this vaccine has to be stored in ultra-cold freezers. Originally, the undiluted vaccine could only be stored at refrigeration temperatures of 35°F to 46°F for five days, making it difficult for small or rural locations without ultra-cold freezers to keep a supply on hand. This new authorization allows storage at refrigeration temperatures for up to one month, allowing for greater availability in Idaho communities. This is especially important as the Pfizer vaccine is the only one currently authorized for those 12 and older.

For more information, please review the FDA's updated [storage and handling summary](#).

### Resources & Equipment

#### Provider resources for discussing vaccinations

As the most trusted source of information for patients' health decisions, providers are looked to for factual, honest information. Recently, the CDC released a series of resources to help providers in their conversations with patients:

- [Talking with patients about COVID vaccination](#)
- [Answering patient questions](#)
- [Discussing the benefits of vaccination](#)

### Virtual Meetings & Education

#### Webinar ~ Medical Conditions and Severe COVID

During this COCA Call from the CDC, presenters will update clinicians on the underlying medical conditions associated with severe disease and provide resources to care for patients with underlying medical conditions.

##### **Underlying Medical Conditions and Severe COVID-19: Evidence-based Information for Healthcare Providers**

Thursday, May 27 ~ 12p MTN / 11a PAC

[Connect to Webinar](#)

#### Podcast ~ Improving Vaccination Equity

Rochelle Archuleta, director of post acute care policy for the AHA, and panelists will discuss their collaboration to develop a successful mass vaccination campaign targeting the Latino community in Austin, Texas.

##### **Improving COVID-19 Vaccination Equity Through Community Partnerships**

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