

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ June 15, 2021

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

Deadline extended to use relief funds

HHS has extended deadlines for hospitals and others to use provider relief funds received after June 30, 2020. Recipients may attribute the payments to eligible expenses or lost revenue incurred prior to receiving the funds. Payments received prior to June 30, 2020 must be used by June 30, 2021. For all other payments, the new deadlines are:

- December 31, 2021 for payments received between July 1 – December 31, 2020
- June 30, 2022 for payments received between January 1 – June 30, 2021
- December 31, 2022 for payments received between July 1 – December 31, 2021

The reporting requirements have also been modified, and now allow recipients 90 days instead of 30 to complete the required reporting. The PRF Reporting Portal will open on July 1 to allow recipients to begin entering their data. For specific reporting deadlines and additional information, please review the [AHA Bulletin](#).

Reimbursement & Policy

Hospital screening - stay the course

While the CDC has relaxed some of the COVID guidelines for restaurants, businesses, and other work settings, there has been no change in the guidelines for healthcare facilities related to infection prevention and control. The [update from February 10](#), which is being used by the Idaho Bureau of Facility Standards, still recommends screening and visitor flow management.

Likewise, CMS is still surveying based on their December 30 memo which covers infection control practices for hospitals and other healthcare facilities. When surveying hospitals, Facility Standards must continue to use the [CMS COVID-19 Focused Infection Control Survey Tool](#) (starting on page 4) for any acute care facility. The licensing and certification staff at Facility Standards constantly monitor for any changes or updated guidance from CDC and will get word out to hospitals when the guidelines change.

OSHA's June 10 [announcement](#) of an Emergency Temporary Standard for healthcare employers echoed the same sentiment by requiring screening and management of patients, clients, and other visitors.

Quality & Patient Safety

Vaccine news – Novavax data, reimbursement and more

This week, Novavax shared their [phase 3 trial results](#) noting 100% protection against moderate and severe disease with a 90% overall efficacy and 93% efficacy against the predominant variants during the time of testing. This trial included more than 29,000 participants from the US and Mexico, with an emphasis on recruiting those from communities and demographics most impacted by the disease. Novavax intends to file for authorization sometime between July and September and are prepared to manufacture 100 million doses per month once approved.

In other vaccine news, the CDC is asking that portions of vaccine allocations be distributed to hospitals, emergency departments and urgent care facilities to help reach unvaccinated people at their primary point of care. This request would not change the allocation, rather, the CDC is asking for states, health departments, and others receiving vaccine distributions to designate a portion to hospitals and other organizations to help increase the number of vaccinated individuals.

For those organizations providing vaccinations at home for Medicare beneficiaries, CMS is [increasing the reimbursement](#) from approximately \$40 per dose to approximately \$75. CMS estimates there are about 1.6 million beneficiaries who have difficulty leaving home to receive their vaccine at pharmacies, clinics and other locations.

Resources & Equipment

Exploring the source of COVID

A recent article in Nature explores many questions regarding the [source of the virus](#), including whether it occurred naturally or was leaked from a lab. In reviewing the available information, the authors also provide a primer on the type of research used to determine the origin of a virus.

Virtual Meetings & Education

Webinar ~ Summertime Steps to Prepare for Fall

This ECHO Idaho webinar will feature State Epidemiologist Dr. Christine Hahn who will discuss vaccination rates in our state as we look forward to fall.

COVID-19 in Idaho: Summertime Steps to Prepare for Fall

Tuesday, June 29 ~ 12p MTN / 11a PAC

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