

Reimbursement & Policy

OSHA provisions in effect beginning July 6

OSHA published its [COVID Health Care emergency temporary standard \(ETS\)](#) yesterday which requires hospitals and other health care entities to meet most of the provisions by July 6 and all by July 21.

The ETS addresses occupational exposure to COVID in health care – including hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, emergency response, home health, and ambulatory care – where suspected or confirmed COVID patients are treated.

Under this ETS, covered health care employers are required to implement plans to identify and control COVID hazards in the workplace if they have not already done so. The policy also requires paid leave for vaccinations and any side effects, and provision of appropriate PPE.

Other requirements include::

- Develop and implement patient screening and management processes as well as health screening and medical management for employees.
- Ensure adherence to standard and transmission-based precautions.
- Implement specific controls for aerosol-generating procedures.
- Ensure physical distancing of at least six feet, when feasible; implement and use physical barriers when physical distancing is not possible.
- Implement cleaning and disinfection protocols in accordance with CDC guidance.
- Ensure ventilation and appropriate use of HVAC equipment within the facility.
- Implement employee training on the ETS and its requirements.
- Ensure anti-retaliation; recordkeeping; and reporting.

The ETS also encourages use of respirators, where respirators are used in lieu of required facemasks, by including a mini respiratory protection program that applies to such use.

AHA has provided this [bulletin outlining the ETS](#) while the OSHA [ETS webpage](#) details the standards as well as provides fact sheets and plan templates.

Virtual Meetings & Education

Webinar ~ Strategies to Coordinate a Rural Response

The main focus of this final Project ECHO COVID-19 session is to help medical providers increase vaccination confidence among their patients. Participants will get updated information on Idaho's vaccination rate, and tools to help increase the number of immunized Idahoans. This session also provides an opportunity to provide some of the top state leaders in public health with input on how we should move forward.

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

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

[Register](#)

Quality & Patient Safety

Vaccination numbers top 50%, lowering case numbers

Today, state officials at DHW reported that half of Idaho adults have received at least one vaccination dose. The number increases to 76% for Idahoans 65 years and older. The increases in immunizations, although not as high as hoped for, continue to contribute to the declining number of cases as well as the lower positivity rate which now stands at 3.6%. As a reminder, in January, Idaho's positivity rate was over 16%.

DHW is continuing to work to increase vaccine confidence and access through various educational, financial, and outreach efforts. DHW is also [providing funding](#) for special, mobile or off-site vaccination clinics to eligible providers and community partners.

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