

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ July 13, 2021

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

## Quality & Patient Safety

### Vaccines and the future of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic

It has become abundantly clear that global vaccination is crucial to ending the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Recent studies assure the high quality of the randomized controlled trials (RCT) for the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) and provide real-world evidence of the effectiveness of the vaccines in preventing COVID-19 hospitalizations.

In the Journal of Pediatric Health Care's [Methodological analysis: randomized controlled trials for Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines](#), Hallas et al. provide a critical review of the trials that may aid healthcare providers in combatting vaccine hesitancy. Using the RCT Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) checklist, authors find the trials were rigorously conducted and provide assurance to healthcare providers and the public regarding safety and efficacy of both mRNA vaccines.

In a multicenter [case-control study](#) evaluating the effectiveness of mRNA vaccines for preventing COVID-19 hospitalizations in the United States, Tenforde et al. found overall vaccine effectiveness to be 86.9% and similar for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. They found the mRNA vaccines highly effective in preventing COVID-19 hospitalizations among U.S. adults and beneficial for patients with immunosuppression, even though the effectiveness was lower in the immunosuppressed population.

At this point in the pandemic, the vast majority of newly hospitalized cases of COVID-19 are among unvaccinated people. From Jan. 1 through July 3, 2,479 Idahoans were hospitalized for COVID-19 — 32 (1.3%) had a record of being fully vaccinated, while 2,447 (98.7%) had no record of being fully vaccinated.

However, severe COVID-19 disease associated with a high mortality rate may occur in a [small proportion of vaccinated persons](#) who are immunocompromised or have multiple comorbidities. As such, Israel's Health Ministry began offering a third (booster) dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to immunocompromised individuals, such as those who have undergone organ transplants.

In related news, the CDC and FDA issued a [joint statement](#) last week indicating that no booster shot is needed at this time; however, they continue to review the data to determine if or under what circumstances one might be necessary.

## Resources & Equipment

### Red Cross in need of donors

In order to help the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho, several IHA members recently started a blood drive challenge. Saint Alphonsus and St. Luke's hospitals kicked off the friendly competition to help ease the severe blood shortage both at home and across the country.

The Idaho chapter of the Red Cross typically collects and distributes about 63,000 units of blood to more than 30 hospitals across the state. Between traumas, a rise in elective procedures, and slower donations during the summer months, they are desperately in need of donors. While all blood types are needed, there is an urgent need for type O and platelets.

To schedule your appointment or learn more about hosting a blood drive, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1.800.RED CROSS.

## Virtual Meetings & Education

### Webinar ~ Addressing vaccine hesitancy

AHA, its Society for Health Care Strategy and Market Development, and leaders from Kaiser will discuss the various archetypes of COVID-19 vaccine-hesitant populations and strategies for communicating with them based on their particular mindset and attitude.

**Addressing COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in Your Community**  
Thursday, July 15 ~ 11a MTN / 10a PAC

[Register](#)

### Research ~ Vaccine attitudes

Faculty at the ISU College of Pharmacy is conducting a research study funded by Merck to better understand the factors influencing decisions to receive or not receive a COVID-19 vaccine. To participate or learn more about the study, click the link below. Those completing the study and providing contact information will be entered to win one of 20 \$100 gift cards.

[Vaccine Survey](#)

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