

COVID-19 Report to Members ~ August 10, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Update on hospital capacity status reporting

Idaho hospitals are experiencing high volumes and capacity issues which are further exacerbated by the pandemic. Last week, the Surge Needs Assessment for the Pandemic (SNAP) indicators were retired in IRTS and new indicators were implemented so that hospitals and partners at the Division of Public Health will have access to meaningful data that will assist in efforts for transferring patients, responding to surges, and determining challenges.

The new indicators are easy to use and designed to be an operational tool for hospitals. As such, hospitals are encouraged, if possible, to change statuses on the indicators throughout the day as hospital capacity resources change. Additionally, hospitals are strongly encouraged to use the comment section regarding specific challenges they are encountering such as barriers to discharging to post-acute facilities, boarding in the ED, staffing limitations etc.

Please see the [guidance document](#) for details on new indicator statuses, definitions, and layout. Users may also hover over indicator headers within IRTS to see detailed definitions. Questions may be directed to: hospitalbedtracking@dhw.idaho.gov.

Quality & Patient Safety

ACIP update ~ vaccines after adverse event reports

An [update on using COVID-19 vaccines](#) from the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) was published in the August 10, 2021 Early Release of CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

There have been rare serious events reported after vaccination with the Janssen vaccine [Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) and thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS)] and the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna mRNA vaccines (myocarditis).

On July 22, 2021, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices reviewed updated benefit-risk analyses after Janssen and mRNA COVID-19 vaccination and concluded that the benefits outweigh the risks for rare serious adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination.

"For example, per million doses of Janssen COVID-19 vaccine administered to males aged 50–64 years, 1,800 hospitalizations, 480 ICU admissions, and 140 deaths attributable to COVID-19 could be prevented, compared with 14–17 GBS cases and 1–2 TTS cases after Janssen COVID-19 vaccination."

"Based on a comprehensive review of existing data, in the context of ongoing transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in the United States as of July 2021, the ACIP concluded that 1) the benefits of vaccinating all recommended age groups with either the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine or mRNA COVID-19 vaccine outweigh the risks for vaccination, including the risks for GBS and TTS after Janssen COVID-19 vaccination, or myocarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination; 2) continuing safety monitoring of serious adverse events after COVID-19 vaccination is critical; and 3) providers and the public should be informed about these potential harms and the use of COVID-19 vaccines. The analysis did not include potential benefits of preventing post-COVID-19 conditions, or likely ongoing benefits beyond the 120-day period; for these reasons, the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination are underestimated."

"FDA requires that vaccine providers report to VAERS vaccination administration errors, serious adverse events, cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome, and cases of COVID-19 that result in hospitalization or death after administration of a COVID-19 vaccine under an EUA. CDC also encourages reporting of any additional clinically significant adverse event, even if it is not clear whether a vaccination caused the event."

For more information on VAERS, click [here](#).

Virtual Meetings & Education

Webinar ~ Therapeutic options for the immunocompromised

This CDC webinar focuses on the role of monoclonal antibodies, serologic testing and a potential third COVID-19 vaccine dose for immunocompromised patients.

Therapeutic Options to Prevent Severe COVID-19 in Immunocompromised People

Thursday, August 12 ~ 12p MTN / 11a PAC
[connection details](#)

Note that a slide set will be posted the day of the call and a recording will be available a few hours after the event.

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