



COVID-19 Report to Members ~ October 12, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Vaccines for children and boosters for adults

As both the FDA and CDC prepare to consider vaccinations for children ages 5-11, public health agencies, hospitals, and other providers are beginning to plan for administration should the approvals occur. The CDC released a [planning guide](#) late last week that highlights packaging changes and storage requirements, as well as ordering the Pfizer vaccines if they are authorized.

The pediatric version of the vaccine is expected to be reviewed at the [October 26 VRBPAC meeting](#). ACIP is planning to discuss the pediatric vaccines at the meeting scheduled for [November 2 and 3](#).

In other vaccine news, discussions regarding Moderna and Johnson & Johnson booster shots for adults have been scheduled. VRBPAC is scheduled to discuss the boosters [October 14 and 15](#) and ACIP will take up the issue on [October 20 and 21](#).

Resources & Information

IMA request investigation into Boise pathologist

The Idaho Medical Association has [filed a complaint](#) with the Idaho Board of Medicine stating that Boise pathologist Ryan Cole is treating patients outside “the Idaho community standard of care”. In addition, the complaint notes two other areas of Idaho Code that Cole allegedly violated: promoting the sale of drugs that are not medically indicated and engaging in conduct that constitutes an abuse or exploitation of a patient.

The Idaho Board of Medicine will have to review the complaint, but it is not yet known if that will be part of the meeting scheduled for October 20.

Interesting read ~ ivermectin research

While ivermectin does have medical uses in both humans and animals, its ability to treat COVID is a hotly debated topic. Of [concern to a group of scientists](#) is the quality of the information being distributed as scientific research. This group, which has worked to expose dubious research, has looked into all the studies that have been published or cited regarding ivermectin and COVID. They recently submitted this [letter noting the poor quality of much of the research](#) and expressed their concern about the impact for those taking the drug.

Virtual Meetings & Education

Webinar ~ Applying for latest round of federal funding

HRSA is hosting additional informational sessions on applying for the \$25.5 billion being made available through provider relief and ARPA funds. Additional details can also be found in the [application and support information](#).

Phase 4 and ARP Rural – providing supporting documentation

October 13 ~ 1p MTN / 12p PAC

October 21 ~ 1p MTN / 12p PAC

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