

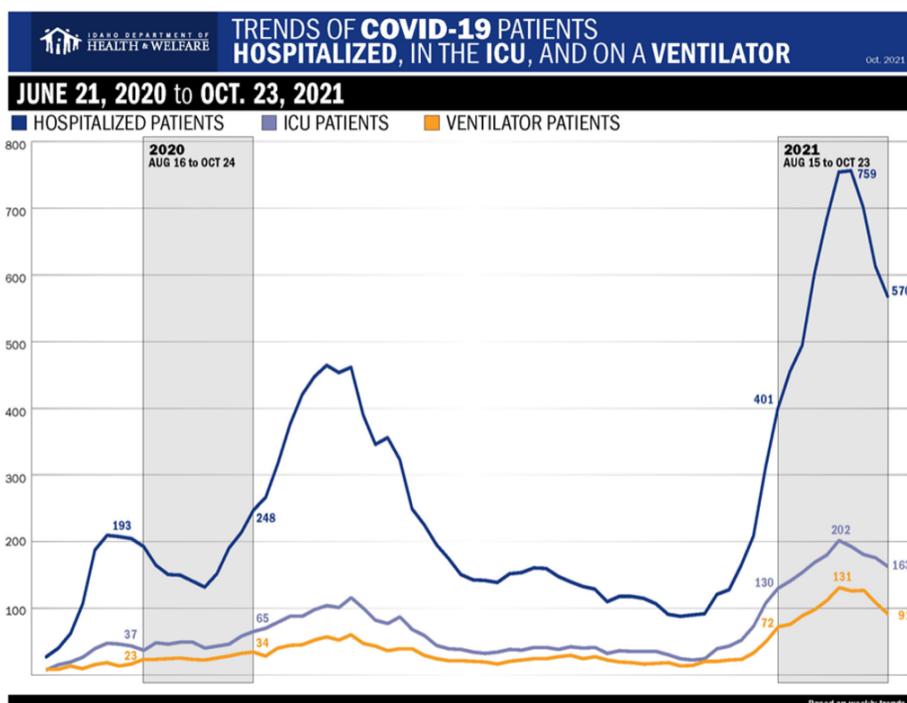
## Reimbursement & Policy

### Legislature to return to discuss federal mandate and more

Leaders of the Idaho Legislature have confirmed they will be coming back into session on November 15th. House Speaker Scott Bedke has indicated the House will take up an ethics complaint against Rep. Priscilla Giddings and consider possible legislation dealing with the Biden Administration executive order regarding vaccine requirements.

Earlier this month, the Legislature's interim Committee on Federalism voted to recommend one legislative proposal but reports are that there are many more drafts that legislators would like to present for consideration. Bedke has reportedly stated that all ideas for bills dealing with vaccine requirements will be introduced. It is unclear as to whether there will be consensus on any single piece of legislation or how best to address the executive order. Senate Pro Tem Chuck Winder has been quoted as saying the Senate will be prepared to take up a couple of pieces of legislation. One of those may deal with setting up a new \$2 million legal fund to cover vaccine mandates on private employers.

Leaders have identified only two topics for the November session. However, unlike a Special Session called by the Governor, this reconvening of the Legislature is not limited to a single topic or specific legislation. No end date has been set for the session.



On today's media briefing, DHW Director Jeppesen noted the encouraging signs Idaho is experiencing, in most of the state. While a majority of the state is seeing hospitalizations and testing positivity rates decline, some counties in north Idaho are seeing positivity rates of 25%, more than double the state average of 12% (which is still much higher than the target of 5%). New cases in north Idaho account for 22% of all cases statewide despite those counties only accounting for 14% of the state's population.

## Resources & Information

### One step closer to vaccine for young children

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voted today to recommend the FDA authorize the Pfizer vaccine for use in children aged 5-11 years old. Final approval from the FDA could come as early as next week.

The group agreed, in a 17-0 vote (with one member abstaining), that the available evidence justifies use for this younger age group. The doses, two in total administered three weeks apart, will be smaller than those used for adults – 10-micrograms each versus 30 for adults.

Earlier this month, a [planning guide](#) for administering the vaccine to this age group was distributed by the CDC.

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