



COVID-19 Report to Members ~ November 23, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Relief fund distributions begin for rural providers

Today, HRSA began another distribution of relief funds to rural providers. Those serving rural Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare beneficiaries are the designated recipients of \$8.5 billion in ARPA funds. These funds are designed to help providers address workforce challenges as well as compensate for lost revenue or increased expenses attributable to the pandemic.

In Idaho, 313 providers are slated to receive a total of \$57.2 million. During the application process, providers were also able to request Phase 4 Provider Relief Funds. Those distributions are expected soon.

Within 90 days of receiving a payment, providers must access the [Provider Relief Fund Application and Attestation Portal](#) to confirm receipt and agree to the terms and conditions. For additional information, providers are encouraged to [register](#) for and attend the December 2nd HRSA stakeholder briefing.

Hospital reporting flexibility for holiday

In light of the upcoming holiday, HHS is allowing some flexibilities for COVID hospital reporting. Hospitals will be able to delay reporting information from Thursday, November 25 through Sunday, November 29. Data from those days will need to be back-dated and entered by Monday, November 30. This flexibility only applies to federal reporting.

Resources & Information

Booster vaccine doses recommended for all adults

On Friday, both the CDC and FDA [endorsed the recommendation](#) that all adults receive booster doses of Pfizer or Moderna at least six months after receiving the initial two-dose series. IDHW has created this [chart](#) to help clarify who should receive booster doses.

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