



COVID-19 Report to Members ~ November 30, 2021

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

Reimbursement & Policy

Courts block CMS vaccine mandate for health care workers

Over the last two days, two preliminary injunctions were granted in federal cases involving the mandate for all health care employees to be vaccinated under a CMS rule.

Today's ruling in the US District Court in Louisiana will prevent CMS from enforcing the federal vaccine mandate for health care employees. This ruling will impact Idaho health care workers as the Governor and Attorney General joined that lawsuit with several other states. The interim final rule would have required workers in most health care settings that participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs to be fully vaccinated by January 4. The injunction pauses any implementation or enforcement of the rule until after the court process is complete.

Yesterday, the US District Court Judge in Missouri issued the first preliminary injunction in a suit involving ten other states. Two additional challenges to the rule have been filed in Texas and Florida.

Boosters recommended for all adults

The CDC announced yesterday that all vaccinated individuals ages 18 and older should get a booster. Those who received either the Pfizer or Moderna series should receive the booster six months after the initial series, while those who receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should do so after two months.

"The recent emergence of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters, and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19", said CDC Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky. "Early data from South Africa suggest increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant, and scientists in the United States and around the world are urgently examining vaccine effectiveness related to this variant."

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