

Reimbursement & Policy

Additional relief funds being sent

HHS [announced](#) that this week it will distribute \$9 billion of the Phase 4 Provider Relief Fund (PRF) payments to hospitals and other providers who experienced lost revenue and additional expenses related to the pandemic.

More than 300 Idaho providers will share in \$30 million in this round of payments. Nationally, more than 69,000 providers will receive payments, with an average payment of \$58,000 for small providers and \$1.7 million for large providers.

Approximately 75% of the applications for this funding round have been processed. The remainder will be completed next year. As a reminder, those receiving a payment will have 90 days of receiving a payment, providers must sign an attestation via the [PRF Portal](#).

One year ago today, the first vaccine became available for the most at-risk populations. A year later, even with multiple vaccines available, COVID still rages in our country and our state. The snapshot below has some of the latest national statistics. For additional info and links, click on the image.



COVID-19 Snapshot

Challenges Confronting America's Hospitals and Health Systems
(December 9, 2021)

The COVID-19 Snapshot is the American Hospital Association's look at what America's hospitals and front-line workers are facing as they provide care during the public health emergency. America's hospitals and health systems continue to face historic challenges, including unprecedented financial pressures. It is vitally important that hospitals and health systems receive further support and resources to ensure that they can continue to deliver critical care for patients and communities.

BY THE NUMBERS: COVID-19 IN THE U.S.

3,463,027

cumulative confirmed COVID-19 hospital admissions
(August 1, 2020 – December 6, 2021)

Source: CDC | COVID Data Tracker

18.6%

increase in purchased service expenses per adjusted discharge (includes contract labor) compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019

Source: Nov. 2021 Kaufman Hall National Hospital Flash Report

7.1%

increase in average patient length-of-stay (increased patient acuity) compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019

Source: Nov. 2021 Kaufman Hall National Hospital Flash Report

49,547,338

total COVID-19 cases in the U.S.
(as of 12/9)

(850,968 increase over the last 7 days)

Source: JHU | COVID-19 Dashboard

793,302

total COVID-19 deaths in the U.S.
(as of 12/9)

(11,193 increase over the last 7 days)

Source: JHU | COVID-19 Dashboard

States with the highest percent increase in COVID-19 admissions from the prior week:
(as of 12/05)

1. DC – 59%
2. VT – 46%
3. CT – 42%
4. NJ – 36%
5. MO – 32%

Source: COVID-19 Community Profile Report | beta.HealthData.gov

Resources & Information

Replay ~ Nurse leaders discuss challenges and solutions

The latest surge has created a worrisome landscape for the nursing profession. Nurses across the country report that they no longer feel celebrated as they did in the early days of the pandemic. Hostile patients, vaccine distrust, staffing shortages and community indifference have made the job of treating and containing the virus even more difficult. How can hospitals and health systems best support their nurses? What are some ways to reduce stress for frontline workers? And what can be learned from the current pandemic climate to help strengthen and fortify the profession moving forward? A panel of nurse executives discusses these issues and more in this [AHA podcast](#).

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