

IMAgEs NEWSLETTER



New COVID-19 vaccine distribution data dashboard



bit.ly/vaccinedashboard



Idaho COVID-19 Update

On Feb. 11, The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination began. This program sends an additional 5,000 vaccine doses to Idaho each week to be administered at certain Walmart and Albertsons locations. This brings Idaho's total weekly vaccine allocation to 30,000 doses.

The Department of Health and Welfare just published a new COVID-19 vaccine distribution data dashboard. It includes distribution and administration numbers and lists the providers and

pharmacies receiving the doses around the state. Visit the dashboard here: bit.ly/vaccinedashboard

On Feb. 2, Gov. Little announced that he is moving Idaho from stage 2 to stage 3 of his Idaho Rebounds Plan due to decreasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. He and state epidemiologist Dr. Christine Hahn caution that Idahoans still need to be vigilant in wearing masks. Dr. Hahn suspects that the B117 strain of COVID-19, the UK variant, is already in Idaho but is undetected so far.

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Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine

Last week, Johnson & Johnson submitted a request for emergency use authorization (EUA) for its COVID-19 vaccine candidate. If the EUA is granted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), then the vaccine will become the third COVID-19 vaccine to be approved for use in the United States. Unlike the other approved vaccines, this one requires just one dose. According to results from a phase 3 trial of the drug, the vaccine is 66% effective overall at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, 28 days after vaccination. The drug is also 85% effective overall in preventing severe disease and demonstrated complete protection against COVID-19 related hospitalization and death.

Biden administration orders additional 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses

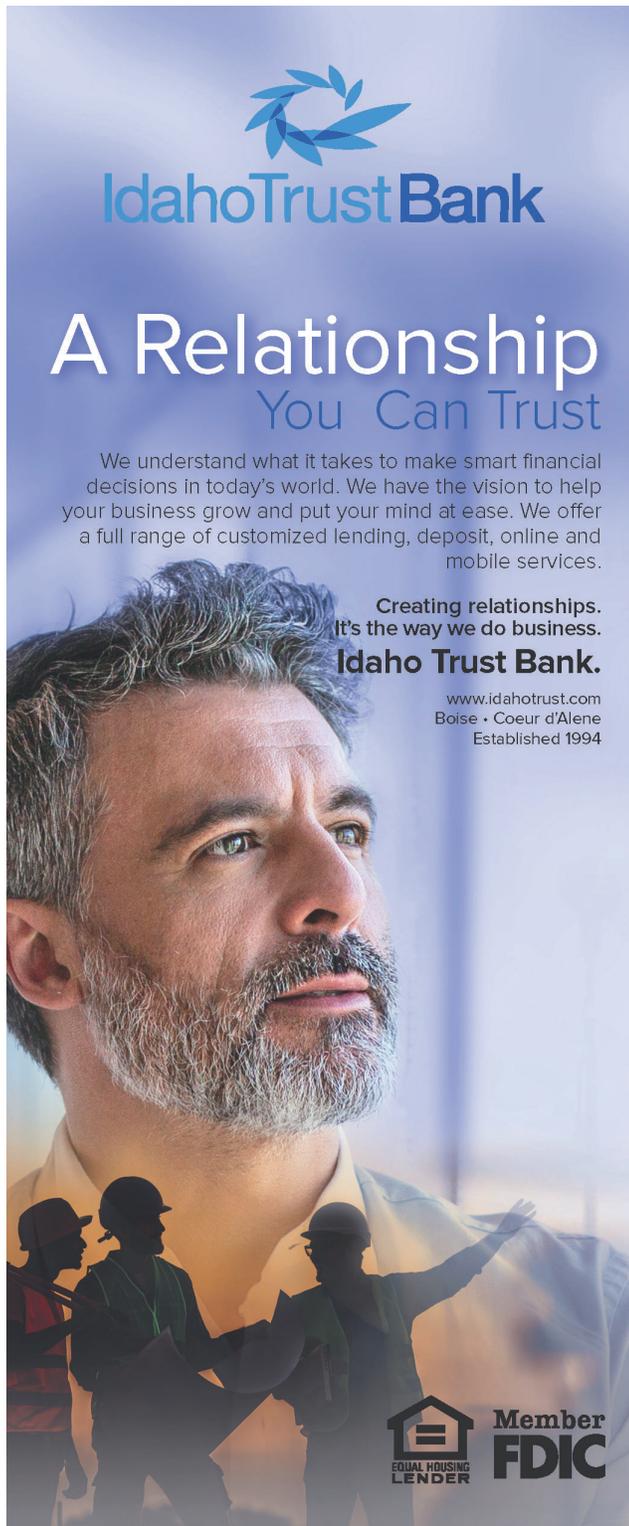
The Biden administration has used options in existing contracts to finalize an order of an additional 200 million COVID-19 vaccine doses — 100 million each from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. The additional shipments would increase supply by 50%, to a total of 600 million doses. At two doses per person, that would offer protection to 300 million people. But it is estimated that the additional 200 million doses finalized Thursday won't be available until the end of July, according to NBC News.

New IMA member benefit: Payor Policy Portal

As Idaho's physicians continue to navigate the COVID-19 crisis, IMA has partnered with Gill Compliance Solutions to offer a brand new membership benefit to IMA members that will help you find updated telehealth and vaccine payor rules for Idaho all in one place. The new Payor Policy Portal provides you with viewing rights to a Smartsheet that includes updated common codes, modifiers, and links to vital information and payor guidelines. The Portal is updated each Monday by IMA's reimbursement consultants at Gill Compliance Solutions with the most current guidelines available to the public. This new benefit comes at no extra cost to your membership. As you continue to take care of Idaho during this challenging time, we hope you find this new resource convenient and helpful.

The Payor Policy Portal is only available to Idaho Medical Association members. Members have access to the portal for the entire 2021 membership year. If you would like access to this benefit, please complete the following steps:

1. Email Rebecca at the IMA (rebecca@idmed.org) and include the email addresses in your practice that should have access to the Portal.
2. The IMA will verify membership and send your information to Gill Compliance Solutions.
3. Within 24 hours, you will receive an email from Smartsheet with your access to the Portal (you will be required to create a login and password). This email will also include a disclosure for your review.
4. Once you've accessed the Portal, you are able to scroll and view at anytime. Updates are made weekly and highlighted for your convenience.
5. PLEASE watch this two-minute tutorial for navigating the Portal: bit.ly/policyportaltutorial




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Guide to Surprise Billing Provisions in the Consolidation Appropriations Act

The Consolidated Appropriations Act COVID-19 relief bill signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020 is a comprehensive, \$1.4 trillion legislative package that includes COVID-19 related relief for physicians and provides funding for health care related government operations through the end of fiscal year 2021. This new law includes the “No Surprises Act”, which allows for price transparency, provider directories, and patient financial protections that impact health plans, physicians, facilities, and other non-MD/DO licensed health care professionals effective **Jan. 1, 2022**. The American Medical Association (AMA) has created the following guide which details the important provisions of the Act.

Patient protections (surprise billing)

- **Scope of Protections:** The Act protects patients from surprise medical bills when they receive unanticipated out-of-network care in emergency and nonemergency settings. Specifically, the law applies to out-of-network providers and facilities delivering emergency care and out-of-network providers delivering emergency and nonemergency care at in-network facilities. The law also protects patients from surprise bills from out-of-network air ambulance services.
- **Cost-Sharing:** Patients are only responsible for cost-sharing amounts that would be their responsibility if care had been provided in-network. Additionally, providers will be barred from holding patients liable for higher amounts. The patient's cost-sharing is based on the recognized amount.
- **Impact on Uninsured:** The Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish an Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) process by January 1, 2022 for circumstances in which an uninsured patient's bill is “substantially in excess” of a good faith estimate. For the purposes of the Act, “uninsured” means that a patient does not have “benefits” for the item or service.

Please review the full AMA guide to surprise billing provisions, including details on the process to resolve payment, by visiting:

www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2021-02/surprise-billing-provisions-guide.pdf



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MIEC was founded in turbulent times, by physicians who imagined a better way to do business. An insurance company that provided its physician owners the best possible coverage, at the lowest sustainable price, and didn't turn profits over to outside shareholders. Over the last 44 years we have put more than \$442 million back into the pockets of our policyholders. To learn more about the benefits of being an MIEC policyholder, or to apply, visit miec.com or call 800.227.4527.

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Legislation to delay Idaho Patient Act passes Senate committee

On Feb. 11, the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee passed HB 42 that would allow for a delay to the Idaho Patient Act until July 1, 2021, while maintaining some key protections to patients under the existing law. The bill is now pending before the full Senate having passed the House 70-0. Here are the important provisions of the legislation:

- Six-month delay to July 1, 2021.
- Clarifies that the new July 1, 2021 date pertains to the date the healthcare service was provided. The existing law required compliance with the Act prior to its effective date.
- The portion of the law that limits the collection of attorney's fees in legal actions on behalf of healthcare providers is not included in the delay and thus will remain in effect as of Jan. 1, 2021.
- The bill will contain a special emergency clause that allows the delay to go into effect as soon as the bill passes the legislature and is signed by the governor.

IMA thanks Sen. Kelly Anthon (R-Burley) for his leadership in advancing the legislation in committee.

IMA and IHA will continue to engage with Melaleuca to seek improvements to the law to ensure that there are adequate protections for patients and no unnecessary burdens for physicians.

For a full update on healthcare related legislation, subscribe to the IMA weekly legislative reports at: bit.ly/IMALegislativeReport

IMA Education Webinar Series

The 2021 IMA Education Webinar schedule is now posted at idmed.org. register today!

The next IMA webinar: **Coding for Emergency Room and High-Level Hospital Services. Gill Compliance Solutions, Nicole Benson (1 CEU), Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 12:15 – 1:15 pm (MT)**

Register today to join Nicole Benson with Gill Compliance Solutions on March 17. Don't miss this valuable and informative webinar! This webinar will be presented via Zoom, dial-in instructions as well as any presentation materials will be emailed to you the day before the webinar. A registration form is available at idmed.org. Questions? Contact the IMA at 208-344-7888 or rebecca@idmed.org.



This program has received prior approval by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) for one (1) continuing education credit. Granting of prior approval in no way constitutes endorsement by AAPC of the program content or the program sponsor.



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62nd Annual ACMS Winter Clinics

Feb. 26-27 2021

Did you miss out on CME credits last year due to lack of travel? Want to explore the intersection of clinical care and public health? ACMS' 62-year old world class medical education conference has been condensed down to two full days and flipped to a completely virtual event so anybody can attend from across the state. Besides a great line-up of speakers, you will also enjoy connecting with other Idaho doctors with optional virtual socials, non-medical education, prize drawings and more. If you want get to know Boise specialists or build a stronger referral relationships with family medicine doctors, this is the conference to attend.

Registration for up to 12.5 CME credits is just \$235 for non-ACMS members. Register at www.acmswinterclinics.com by Feb 19.

Winter Clinics Faculty and Presentations include:

- Christine Hahn, MD Idaho State Epidemiologist, Department of Health and Welfare
Disease Trends in Idaho: How are We Doing? COVID-19: Where are We Now and Where are We Headed?
- Neil Argyle, MD, MPH, General Internal Medicine - Salt Lake City VAMC
Internal Medicine 2021 Update, Illness Scripts for Learning
- Jennifer Shalz, MD, Medical Director, St. Luke's Lifestyle Medicine Department
Lifestyle Medicine Update
- Justin Bailey, MD, Procedural Institute Director, Family Medicine Health Center
Non-Narcotic Approaches to Pain Management

View the complete list of speakers and register at: www.acmswinterclinics.com

Medical Practice Opportunities

Family Physician Provider Opportunity with Primary Health Medical Group

Established primary care group in Boise, Idaho is seeking a board certified/eligible family physician to work in APPOINTMENT-BASED FAMILY PRACTICE clinics in Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Kuna or Caldwell, Idaho.

SIGNING BONUS MAY BE AVAILABLE
OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP MAY BE AVAILABLE

Call for this appointment based position is 1:30 and is only phone calls. Hospitalist coverage is provided. We have a nurse triage service that handles most of our patient calls.

Boise/Caldwell offers a complete complement of sub-specialties for physician support and a very competitive compensation package. For more information, contact Becky Nelson at becky.nelson@primaryhealth.com.

Family Physician Provider Opportunity with Bear Lake Memorial Hospital

Seeking a broad or full-spectrum Family Practice Physician with the opportunity to join our organization in the spring of 2021. The incoming Physician will join a collegial, team-oriented group in a rural practice that will include an Outpatient Clinic, Inpatient, and Emergency Department work.

BLMH in Montpelier, Idaho is a CAH hospital that offers multiple services, including clinics, skilled nursing, ED, dialysis, home health, therapy, mental health, chemotherapy, surgery, and orthopedic surgery.

Our vision is to be the most caring hospital on earth. Within 20 minutes of the beautiful Bear Lake and surrounded by recreational opportunities.

More information can be found at:
www.blmhospital.com/job/family-practice-physician/.

Direct questions about the position to michael.blauer@blmhospital.com

Family Medicine Physician Opportunity with Valor Health in Beautiful Emmett, Idaho

Valor Health has an excellent full-time employment opportunity for a Board Certified or Board Eligible Family Medicine physician to join a growing health system in a critical-access area in Emmett, Idaho. This Family Medicine physician would practice in the clinic, as a hospitalist, perform OB/C-sections, and manage inpatient/swing bed patients.

Excellent compensation package including full medical and dental benefits, retirement 403B matching, PTO and CME allocation, malpractice, and sign-on incentives. For more information, please access application at: <https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/Details/451402/Valor-Health/PHYSICIAN>



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Calendar of Events

February 26-27, 2021

ACMS Virtual Winter Clinics

March 17, 2021

IMA Education Webinar:

Coding for Emergency Room and High-Level Hospital Services. Gill
Compliance Solutions, Nicole Benson (1 CEU)

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 12:15 – 2:15 pm (MT)

Idaho Medical Association
Unifying and advocating for
Idaho physicians

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