

IMA **WIRE** Newsletter

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Idaho COVID-19 vaccine update

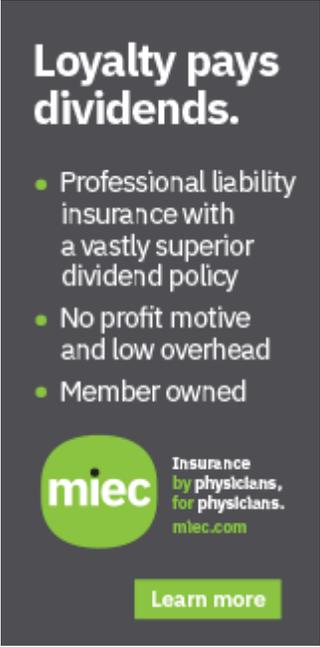
Starting Feb. 1, Idahoans 65 years of age and older can make appointments to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The state anticipates that it will take about 10 weeks to vaccinate this group. Moving forward, the state expects to receive roughly 25,000 vaccine doses each week. The state and hospital systems are asking for those in the current priority group to be patient as the demand for vaccine appointments is much larger than the current supply.

Hospitals will update their available appointments when they receive additional doses.

The Department of Health and Welfare just published a [new COVID-19 vaccine website](#) that provides information on when and where individuals can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Check this website for the state's most up to date vaccine distribution timeline.

On Jan. 28, Gov. Little held a press conference to announce an executive order to increase transparency in COVID-19 vaccine distribution. This will require providers and health districts to report the number of vaccine doses they have given and have in inventory. IMA agrees that this move will help the state make timely and accurate decisions on vaccine allocations and help to ensure Idaho has the resources to support vaccine distribution. [Click here](#) to read the full executive order.

Gov. Little has also announced the state of Idaho will offer healthcare providers new grants to more quickly administer COVID-19 vaccine across the state. The new [COVID-19 Vaccine Capacity, Safety, and Reporting Grants](#) can be used by enrolled vaccine provider organizations to increase staffing to administer shots, purchase needed equipment and supplies, and improve vaccine access for hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations. The amount each enrolled healthcare vaccine provider will receive is based on the number of doses they administer. [Click here](#) to read the governor's press release.



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Expansion of ICD-10 Codes for COVID-19

By IMA Reimbursement Consultant [Jana Weis, CPC, Principal, Gill Compliance Solutions](#)

Under the National Emergencies Act, Sections 201 and 301, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued further additions to the current list of ICD-10 codes to capture more information about the condition. The new codes went into effect Jan. 1, 2021. The CDC has developed an ICD-10 tool, free to the public (see below), to search and summarize code use and chapter guidelines. Insurance companies will be adding these to the list of usable codes, yet, each payor will likely have their own policy for specific codes relating to testing.

New codes include:

- Encounter for screening for COVID-19 (Z11.52)
- Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19 (Z20.822)
- Personal history of COVID-19 (Z86.16)
- Multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS) (M35.81)
 - Note this is applicable to MIS-A, MIS-C, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children, pediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome, PIMS
- Other specified systemic involvement of connective tissue (M35.89)
- Pneumonia due to coronavirus disease 2019 (J12.82)
 - Requires Covid-19 to be listed as primary (U07.1)

If your practice is looking for easy to use on-line reference tools, we recommend looking at ICD10data.com and ICD10cmtool.cdc.gov – both sites offer an easy search with rules applicable to code order and claim placement. ICD10data.com has a better means of drilling down the code information and highlighting to alert whether a code can be used as primary for purposes of reimbursement. If you are receiving denials due to testing diagnosis codes not being covered, we encourage you to sign-up for the IMA Payor Policy Portal which summarizes many of the Idaho payor rules. Please emailed rebecca@idmed.org for more information. IMA members receive free access to the portal.

Legislation to delay Idaho Patient Act advances in the House

On Feb. 1, the House voted 70-0 to pass 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. Last week, IMA CEO Susie Keller testified in support of the legislation alongside the Idaho Hospital Association in the House Business Committee. 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 practices' ability to collect attorney's fees is not included in the delay and thus will still 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 House and Senate and is signed by the governor.

IMA thanks to Rep. Jason Monks (R-Nampa), Sen. Kelly Anthon (R-Burley), and Chairman of the Business Committee Sage Dixon (R-Ponderay) for their leadership and for advancing the legislation. 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.

HB 42 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

Sign up for weekly IMA Legislative Updates

To subscribe to the IMA Legislative Report email list, please click [here](#). View the latest IMA Legislative Report [here](#). This Jan. 29 report includes the following updates:

JFAC considers GME expansion funding

IMA sends letter to Senate in support of Gov. Little's public health emergency declaration

Dr. Williams testifies in support of legislation banning illegal psychoactive drugs

Governor announces vaccine coordination measures

Federal update

AMA fireside chat with Dr. Anthony Fauci: COVID-19 action in the Biden era

The American Medical Association (AMA) is part of [COVID Collaborative](#), a national assembly that has brought together leading organizations in health, education, and the economy to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. On Feb. 9 from 10:00 am - 11:00 pm MT, COVID Collaborative is hosting a Fireside Chat with Dr. Anthony Fauci, and you are invited and encouraged to attend.

The event, entitled COVID-19 Action in the Biden Era, will be a discussion between Dr. Fauci and the co-chairs of the COVID Collaborative, former Governors Deval Patrick (D-MA) and Dirk Kempthorne (R-ID). This will be one of Dr. Fauci's first appearances as the Chief Medical Advisor to President Biden, and he will answer questions about how the new administration is approaching the crisis. After the initial discussion, there will be a moderated Q&A during which time you can ask Dr. Fauci questions through the chat function.

To RSVP, please visit this [link](#). The event will be hosted on Zoom, and we will share the link for the webinar days before the event.

IMA partnership with ActionPPE, PPE delivered directly to you!

Idaho Medical Association is excited to announce our partnership with ActionPPE.org to help Idaho doctors and their practices order proper PPE supplies. The IMA has deeply researched this partner and confirmed its legitimacy with other state associations that have received orders. The ActionPPE team has delivered more than 3 MILLION units of vital PPE to 10,000+ AMA members.

[Order N95 Masks](#)

Until **Feb. 25**, ActionPPE is accepting special group buy orders for Honeywell N95 masks. This is a rare opportunity to get N95 masks at an unbeatable price during the COVID-19 crisis. [Click here](#) to place your N95 order today and read more details. Orders are shipped directly to your office.

[Order Other PPE Items](#)

If you need other PPE supplies such as KN95's, gloves, gowns, etc. you can also place orders for those PPE items directly at the IMA [ActionPPE website](#) and they will ship quickly. To order these items, you must place a minimum order of \$250. Orders are placed online and shipped directly to your office. The N95 group buy is a separate order.

IMA Members receive a 5% discount off their PPE orders! (Group buy N95 orders not included)

DISCOUNT CODE: IMA-SAVE5

Time is of the essence, order today! The IMA hopes this resource is helpful during this challenging time.

IMA Webinar Education Series



Challenges and Changes: Coding for Emergency Room and High-Level Hospital Services (1 CEU)

Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 12:15 – 1:30 pm (MT)

Register today to join IMA Reimbursement Consultant Nicole Benson, Gill Compliance Solutions on March 17, 2021. 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.

Have you ordered your 2021 HCPCS books yet?

HCPCS 2021 Level II Professional Edition provides your practice a quick and accurate coding reference. Along with the most current HCPCS codes and regulations included in the codebook, you'll have everything needed for accurate medical billing and maximum reimbursement. Organized for quick and accurate coding, HCPCS Level II 2021 Professional Edition codebook includes the most current Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System codes and regulations, which are essential references needed for accurate medical billing and maximum permissible reimbursement. This professional edition includes such features as Netter's Anatomy illustrations, dental codes and ASC (Ambulatory Surgical Center) payment and status indicators.

The books are already at the IMA office and can be picked up, shipped, or delivered today! As part of your membership, the Idaho Medical Association offers most coding, billing, and reference manuals at a significant discount. This saves you and your office money when you provide your staff with the tools to help you ward off unwelcome challenges to your revenue.

[Click here for the 2021 publications order form](#)

If you have questions or if there is a type of book you don't see but would like to purchase, please contact Rebecca Adams at rebecca@idmed.org or 208-344-7888.

February is National Heart Month

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S., 83,000 people in Idaho have coronary heart disease. Feb. 5 is National Wear Red Day to bring greater attention to heart disease as a leading cause of death for Americans. Download a [self-care tips](#) poster or [National Wear Red Day](#) poster for your patients to see or post about Heart Month on social media using [these resources](#). [Click here](#) for CDC resources and to learn more about heart disease.

New IMA membership 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.

How to Access:

The Payor Policy Portal is only available to Idaho Medical Association Members, members have access 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.

*Note: Payors might publish information more frequently than the Smartsheet and this resource should only be used as a reference. Guidelines are not contract-specific and only the most utilized payors are included.

New Payor Policy Portal Tutorial

Survey for health care providers involved in concussion management

You are receiving this invitation because you are a licensed health care provider within the State of Idaho who does or potentially can provide diagnosis and/or treatment of concussed patients. The purpose of this research study is to assess understanding in how concussed patients are diagnosed, managed, and

“return to play” decisions are made. This research study is being conducted by Kurt Nilsson, MD, MS and Travis Griffiths, MD.

As a participant, you will complete a short, one-time online survey that will take about 8-12 minutes to complete. You may choose whether or not to complete this survey. Your participation is voluntary, and all answers will remain anonymous.

There is no cost to you, and you will not be paid for your participation in this study.

There are no anticipated risks or discomforts to responding to this anonymous survey, and there are no direct benefits to you. However, understanding how concussions are diagnosed, managed, and “return to play” decisions are made may help inform future patient care practices and future legislation relating to concussion management.

The survey link is located below and will be active for approximately 30 days. If you would like to participate, click the link below. If you have any questions or have any difficulty accessing the survey, please contact study staff at providersurvey@slhs.org. If you have any concerns regarding your rights related to this research, please contact St. Luke’s Health System IRB at 208-381-1406.

You may open the survey in your web browser by clicking the link below. Opening the link and completing the survey constitutes consent for your survey responses to be used in the Provider Survey Study. You may print or save a copy of this email for your records. You may stop participating by closing the survey link at any time, however, once you have submitted your survey, you cannot withdraw your consent or retrieve your survey due to the surveys being anonymous. The study staff will not know which survey belongs to you. Choosing not to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits. No action is required if you wish not to participate or if you have previously submitted a survey response.

You may open the survey in your web browser by clicking the link below:

[Survey of Health Care Providers Involved in Concussion Management, "The Provider Survey"](https://redcap.iths.org)
[\[redcap.iths.org\]](https://redcap.iths.org)

If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:

<https://redcap.iths.org/surveys/?s=8N39EPL7KJ>



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