

IMAgEs NEWSLETTER



New IMA Member Benefit: Payor Policy Portal



Check out the details on page 5!



Gov. Little begins 2021 Legislative Session with State of the State Address

On Jan. 11, Gov. Brad Little gave his State of the State address. He highlighted Idaho's 2020 record budget surplus that has resulted largely from federal COVID-19 financial relief.

With this surplus, the governor proposes more than \$450 million in tax relief. His plan includes \$295 million in one-time tax relief. He is also proposing \$160 million in permanent tax cuts.

Following \$50 million in broadband infrastructure investments last year, the governor's 2021 plan continues the momentum

with \$35 million for new investments in internet connectivity for underserved areas to improve commerce, economic growth, and education.

He also proposed more support for small businesses in Idaho, on top of the \$300 million in direct support for small businesses last year.

His plan also invests in higher education and career technical education training programs across Idaho.

For the governor's full address, visit gov.idaho.gov

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Idaho COVID-19 update

Gov. Little announces next phase of vaccine rollout

On Jan 12, Gov. Brad Little announced that he is adopting the recommendation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee to open up the next phase of vaccine rollout to teachers, frontline workers, and Idahoans aged 65 and over. This will include an estimated 500,000 Idahoans. The governor said he will prioritize teachers, school staff, first responders, and some other frontline workers between Jan. 13-31 before making doses available to the 65-and-up population. Idahoans aged 65-and-older will be able to access vaccinations between Feb. 1-15. The state's updated timeline on COVID-19 vaccine distribution for Idahoans can be found on the IMA COVID-19 webpage at [idmed.org](https://www.idmed.org).

CDH vaccine update

Central District Health (CDH) has provided IMA with an update on vaccine prioritization and processes in their jurisdiction following the governor's announcement to open up the next phase of vaccine rollout to the following 2.1 Subgroups:

- First responders (firefighters/police) and safety (protective services/community support)
- Coroner and medical examiners
- Idaho Fish and Game and USDA law enforcement officers
- Adult and child protective services
- Child welfare workers
- Community food, housing and relief services
- Education: Pre-K-12 school staff and teachers and daycare [childcare] workers
- Residential schools or facilities providing behavioral health treatment
- Correctional and detention facility staff (other than medical)

CDH has been working through various community partners to develop lists of organizations included in Subgroup 2.1 and number of anticipated vaccine doses needed. Starting Jan. 14, CDH will begin assigning its lists of 2.1 organizations in need of vaccine to enrolled vaccine providers, for coordination and administration. CHD plans to continue this process of sharing lists of qualifying organizations needing vaccine through the end of January as they work through these large scale groups. CHD will work to spread the groups across enrolled vaccine providers in CDH's jurisdiction and want to point out that the size of the lists may exceed the allotment of vaccine you have been assigned for the week. CDH is doing this with the understanding that dose estimates provided for a given organization may well exceed the reality of uptake. CHD also recognizes that having these lists may allow you to pursue avenues to avoid vaccine waste and anticipate near-term scheduling needs.

For any Group 1 healthcare workers in need of vaccine, CDH will continue with its process to collect information through its call center, placing those practices and individuals on a list that CDH will share with enrolled vaccine providers, each morning following the process that CDH has established with providers.

Since the governor has opened up vaccine to Adults 65+ beginning Feb. 1, CDH intends to recommend that individuals in this group directly contact their primary care provider/medical home. For those who do not have a medical home, CHD will plan to compile and offer a list of enrolled vaccine providers in CDH communities offering COVID-19 vaccine.

CDH Call Center 208-321-2222, Open M-F 8:30 am to 4:30 pm



Is it time for a change?

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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Medicaid COVID-19 updates

Provider Enrollment

Any Idaho facility, organization, or healthcare provider licensed to possess or administer vaccines or provide vaccination services is eligible to enroll in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 vaccination program in Idaho. Provider enrollment and training requirements are available on the CDC Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support page: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html. Providers and key facility staff (overseeing or handling COVID-19 vaccines) must review all required training to participate in Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Reimbursement

The federal government is paying for the vaccine itself, and Idaho Medicaid will reimburse for the administration of the vaccine at 90% of the Medicare rate. COVID-19 vaccine-specific administration codes are outlined in the chart below.

Code	Description	New Rate	Effective Date
0001A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; first dose	\$ 15.25	11/10/2020
0011A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; first dose	\$ 15.25	11/10/2020
0002A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 30 mcg/0.3mL dosage, diluent reconstituted; second dose	\$ 25.55	11/10/2020
0012A	Immunization administration by intramuscular injection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (Coronavirus disease [COVID-19]) vaccine, mRNA-LNP, spike protein, preservative free, 100 mcg/0.5mL dosage; second dose	\$ 25.55	11/10/2020

IMA Education Webinar Series

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

The next IMA webinar: **Challenges and Changes: Recap on the 2021 E/M Guidelines with Live Q & A (1 CEU), Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 12:15 – 1:15 pm (MT)**

Register today to join IMA Reimbursement Consultant Jana Weis, DipCom, CPC, Principal, Gill Compliance Solutions on January 20. 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.

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 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

AMA urges changes to COVID-19 vaccine administration & PPE Medicare reimbursement

On Dec. 23, the American Medical Association (AMA) submitted comments to CMS' Additional Policy and Regulatory Revisions in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Interim Final Rule with Comment (IFC). At the same time as the agency issued the IFC, CMS published interim final payment amounts for the first and second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. CMS would pay a geographically adjusted \$16.94 for the first dose and \$28.39 for the second dose. The AMA urged CMS to withdraw these interim final payment rates and adopt the RUC-recommended values, which are based on an extensive and thorough review of the necessary physician work and practice expense to administer these COVID-19 vaccines.

In addition, the AMA expressed disappointment that CMS finalized CPT code 99072, which is a new code created to recognize the additional supplies and staff time to perform safety protocols during this pandemic, as a bundled service on an interim basis in the 2021 Medicare Physician Payment Schedule final rule as many services do not include these specific PPE items and physician practices are facing PPE and infection control expenses. The AMA along with 127 other state medical associations and national medical specialty societies reiterated the recommendations they made that CMS immediately implement and pay CPT code 99072 to recognize the increased expenses due to infection control practices necessary to safely immunize and care for patients during this PHE. Many physician practices are struggling as a result of the steps they have had to take to address COVID-19.

AMA submits comments on federal regulations addressing prior authorization reform

The AMA submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on provider burden reduction and prior authorization. The NPRM, which cited the AMA prior authorization survey data and grassroots website FixPriorAuth.org, would require Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and federally facilitated health exchange plans to support technology that would convey prior authorization requirements and automate the exchange of supporting clinical data from physicians' electronic health records (EHR) workflow. The NPRM also would require plans to publicly report data on prior authorization programs and comply with processing timeframes. The AMA commended CMS for addressing prior authorization burdens and urged that these requirements be extended to Medicare Advantage plans so that more patients will benefit. Relatedly, the AMA encouraged CMS to allow for adequate testing of the technology it is proposing prior to requiring its use in regulation.

Newborn Screening Program changes laboratories

The Newborn Screening Program (NBS) has alerted IMA that NBS is changing its contracted laboratory to improve timeliness of screening and to be more responsive in its newborn screening activities. What you need to know:

- New laboratory: Washington State Laboratory
- Effective date of April 1, 2021
- Collection kit cost increase (\$58.20 for single kit and \$116.40 for double or triple (NICU only) kits
- Services will continue as they are now through March 31, 2021.
- Screening process will remain the same: lance newborn's heel and place on filter paper – but there will be 5 blood spots instead of 4

A WebEx meeting is scheduled for Jan. 27 at 12:00 pm MST to provide additional information. Invitations will be emailed to the NBS contact list. To be added to the NBS contact list, email stephanie.walters1@dhw.idaho.gov Should you require more information please call us at (208)334-5962.

AMA State Advocacy Summit Report

Keith E. Davis, MD, IMA Alternate Delegate

The AMA State Advocacy Summit (SAS) was held virtually this year on Jan. 6-8. IMA CEO Susie Keller, IMA Delegate to AMA Patrice Burgess, IMA President Joe Williams, IMA Director of Government Affairs Jamie Neill and IMA Alternate Delegate to AMA Keith Davis all attended. The summit started with the President's welcome by AMA President Susan R. Bailey, MD. The Keynote address "The Great Acceleration" was given by Bruce Mehlman, founder, Mehlman, Castagnetti, Rosen and Thomas. The Keynote was followed by two panel discussions: 1) COVID-19 vaccine distribution and 2) Rethinking and rebuilding state public health infrastructure. I think the pandemic has left many IMA members wondering if the public health infrastructure in Idaho is optimal.

Other panels included topics like Health Insurance in 2021: A conversation with state regulators and policymakers; Health care priorities in 2021: Conversation with state legislators (including our own Idaho legislator from Jerome Rep. Laurie Lickley); and Advancing Telehealth for patients and physicians. The best of the summit for me was the Keynote about accelerating change in the world including healthcare followed closely by the legislative panel and the excellent representation we saw in Rep. Laurie Lickley. The virtual SAS was a positive experience and I encourage the IMA to have representation at this event in the future.

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

Hospital 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

ZOOM+Care is hiring experienced Family Nurse Practitioners in Boise!

Work 34 hours a week. No admin days, no on-call time.
Sign on bonus opportunity!
Practice in a highly-regarded, patient-first environment. (Fun fact: ZOOM+Care customers consistently rate their care at a 4.7 out of 5.0!)
Enjoy 3.5 days off a week, every week.
Work close to home, in one of our neighborhood clinics.
Play a crucial part in disrupting the healthcare industry.
Help build the nation's first complete health system from the ground up.

Part-time and Per Diem also available!

Apply Here: <https://jobs.lever.co/zoomcare/962c30ba-cbd5-4111-b6a8-ec7ee55e671c>

To place a Medical Practice Opportunities Classified Advertisement, please
contact: Amika Empey, Director of Communications at
208-344-7888 or by email amika@idmed.org.



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Calendar of Events

January 20, 2021

IMA Education Webinar:

Challenges and Changes: Recap on the 2021 E/M Guidelines with
Live Q & A (1 CEU)

Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 12:15 – 2:15 pm (MT)

**Additional information and registration forms for webinars
are available at www.idmed.org**

Idaho Medical Association
Unifying and advocating for
Idaho physicians

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