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Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021

### **IDPH updates vaccine allocation cadence and ordering**

Representatives from the state recently met with White House officials to better understand why Iowa is ranked 47th in the nation in doses allocated per 100,000 population. They learned during this meeting that because of the state's allocation cadence, Iowa's allocation numbers appear lower than they are.

Most states immediately place their vaccine order when the doses become available in VTrckS Thursday evening. Because of inconsistencies Iowa experienced in federal allocation projections in December, Iowa established an allocation cadence that did not begin until the doses became available in VTrckS, which allowed officials to ensure consistency in the allocation numbers shared through HAN. This caused Iowa to place an order a few days later, creating a timing challenge for how OWS reports states' allocation rates. This caused a misperception that Iowa is either not receiving or not ordering all available doses. This is not the case; Iowa has ordered every dose made available in VTrckS.

To help improve perception and understanding, IDPH will begin ordering vaccines Thursday evenings when Iowa's allocation of doses becomes available in VTrckS. Unfortunately, this means yet another adjustment in the timing of weekly HAN alerts for county allocations. IDPH will make this adjustment by implementing the following allocation cadence, which began this week:

- **Monday, Feb. 8** – Counties responded at Noon to HAN alert issued Friday, Feb 5. IDPH placed PRIME DOSE ORDER Monday evening, Feb. 8. Product arrives at providers Feb. 9-11.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 9** – Issued HAN alert for BOOST DOSE ALLOCATION at 8:30 am. Counties responded by 4 pm. IDPH placed BOOST DOSE ORDER Tuesday evening, Feb. 9.
- **Wednesday, Feb. 10** – Issued HAN alert for PRIME DOSE ALLOCATION at 8:30 am. Counties responded by 4 pm. IDPH will place PRIME DOSE ORDER Thursday evening, Feb. 11, when doses are available in VTrckS. Doses will arrive at vaccine providers Feb. 12-15. IDPH has conducted the 80% administration assessment and has contacted counties that were below the 80% target.
- **Thursday, Feb. 11** – IDPH will issue an HAN alert for BOOST DOSE ALLOCATION at 8:30 am. County response is due by 4 pm Friday, Feb. 12. IDPH will place a BOOST DOSE ORDER Sunday evening, Feb. 13, when doses are available in VTrckS. Doses will arrive at

ORDER Sunday evening, Feb. 18, when doses are available in VTrckS. Doses will arrive at vaccine providers Feb. 15-17.

- **Allocations for PRIME DOSE ALLOCATIONS issued through HAN Friday, Feb 5**, serve as the static prime dose allocation for counties through February, except when the 80% burn rate is not achieved.

#### ***Allocation cadence week of Feb. 15-19***

- **Sunday, Feb. 14** – IDPH will run burn-rate calculation: Numerator = first-dose administrations reported in IRIS for the county Feb. 8-Feb 14; denominator = the number of PRIME DOSES ORDERED for the county Monday, Feb 8.
- **Monday, Feb. 15** – IDPH will call counties with less than 80% burn rate for the prior week.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 16** – IDPH will issue an HAN alert for PRIME DOSE ALLOCATION at 8:30 am. County response is due by noon Wednesday, Feb. 17. IDPH will place a PRIME DOSE ORDER Thursday evening, Feb. 18, when doses are available in VTrckS. Doses will arrive at vaccine providers Feb. 19-22.
- **Thursday, Feb. 18** – IDPH will issue an HAN alert for BOOST DOSE ALLOCATION at 8:30 am. County response is due noon Friday, Feb. 19. IDPH will place a BOOST DOSE ORDER Sunday evening, Feb. 21, when doses are available in VTrckS. Doses will arrive at vaccine providers Feb. 22-24.

#### ***Allocation cadence week of Feb. 22-26***

- **Sunday, Feb. 21** – IDPH will run burn-rate calculation: Numerator = first-dose administrations reported in IRIS for the county Feb. 15-Feb 21; denominator = the number of PRIME DOSES ORDERED for the county Thursday, Feb 11.
- **Monday, Feb. 22** – IDPH will call counties with less than 80% burn rate for the prior week.
- **Tuesday, Feb. 23** – IDPH will issue an HAN alert for PRIME DOSE ALLOCATION at 8:30 am. County response is due noon Wednesday, Feb. 24. IDPH will place a PRIME DOSE ORDER Thursday evening, Feb. 25, when doses are available in VTrckS. Doses will arrive at vaccine providers Feb. 26-March 1.
- **Thursday, Feb. 25** – IDPH will issue an HAN alert for BOOST DOSE ALLOCATION at 8:30 am. County response is due noon Friday, Feb. 26. IDPH will place a BOOST DOSE ORDER Sunday evening, Feb. 28, when doses are available in VTrckS. Doses will arrive at vaccine providers March 1-3.

### **Congress agrees on budget resolution, paving way for reconciliation process**

Late last week, the House and Senate passed a concurrent budget resolution giving Congress the ability to expedite procedures to pass the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package proposed by President Joe Biden using a simple majority in the Senate. This resolution provides \$1.9 trillion to committees with jurisdiction over Biden's American Rescue Plan and requires them to submit their legislation aligning with these budget targets to the Budget Committee by Tuesday, Feb. 16. Hospitals and health systems were projected to experience over \$323 billion in financial losses through the end of 2020, according to two studies released by AHA last year. Many of the same financial challenges persist this year as the COVID-19 crisis continues.

Please contact legislators today and urge them to provide additional support to hospitals and health systems as part of the legislative package. Specifically, urge them to include:

- An extension of the moratorium on the Medicare sequester cuts.
- Forgiveness for Medicare accelerated payments for hospitals.
- More funding for the Provider Relief Fund. Given allocations made to date and COVID-19 relief legislation passed in December directing use of the funds, only \$4.4 billion will be available for disbursement to hospitals and health systems and other health care providers.
- Significant funding for COVID-19 vaccination outreach, planning, administration and distribution efforts.

In addition, as part of the legislation, please ask legislators to:

- Include more federal support for front-line health care workers.
- Increase coverage options for those who are uninsured.
- Not include any provisions that would require new, unrealistic and burdensome Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.
- Provide more support for state health programs, including Federal Medical Assistance Percentages.
- Reset the Improving Medicare Post-acute Care Transformation Act to reflect new insights from the pandemic and the effect of recent transformative reforms of the existing post-acute care payment systems.

IHA will continue to monitor this as it develops and will provide updates.

### **Vaccination resources released**

Two vaccination resources were recently released:

- IDPH has released its [2019 Novel Coronavirus Pandemic Vaccination Planning presentation](#) from Feb. 5.
- The CDC has added a page titled [Vaccinate with Confidence](#) to their website. The page includes strategies to reinforce confidence in COVID-19 vaccines, communication toolkits and what to do when COVID-19 vaccines supply is limited.

### **Educational opportunities**

- [COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies webinar](#) – 10-11 am Thursday, Feb. 11. Hosted by IDPH, the webinar will identify anecdotal treatment trends and outcomes realized by sites that have already implemented infusion services for monoclonal antibodies. The webinar also will address how to implement an outpatient monoclonal antibody infusion service in a health care organization, access bamlanivimab or Casirivimab/imdevimab and identify the appropriate contact(s) who can help with the process, recognize strategies to increase provider awareness and patient acceptance of COVID-19 monoclonal antibody therapies and treat long-term care residents with COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies. Representatives from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Eli Lilly and Regeneron also will be available to answer questions. For registration questions, email [Cassie Kennedy](#) at [IDPH](#)

- [COVID-19 and CEO Turnover: What's a Board to Do?](#), 10-11 am Wednesday, Feb. 17.  
Roughly one in five hospital CEOs leave their positions in any given year. The rate is even higher in rural communities. This session will identify root causes of CEO turnover and how that turnover has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It also will discuss actions boards can take to help prevent CEO turnover and three simple steps to use when facing a leadership change to help boards govern an even stronger organization.



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