

Vaccine Update

Hi All-

Thanks to those of you who joined our Leadership Townhall earlier this week. We hope you find these helpful and as always, we welcome your questions and thoughts via email to BrightIdeas@idoc.idaho.gov.

Short and sweet COVID-19 message today. [\[Click here\]](#) to watch a video of Chief of Staff Christine Starr discussing next week's vaccine clinic on March 2nd. It's open to people who received their first dose at our last clinic and to those of you who want to get your first dose.

We've also received a few questions as it relates to vaccines for our resident population that I want to address, so you can help get the word out. On Saturday, 2/27, we will be working with Corizon to immunize the first 100 of our residents at ISCI who meet the eligibility criteria of being over the age 65 or in long-term care. An additional 100 eligible residents at ISCC will be vaccinated on Monday, 3/1. The 200 doses won't cover everyone that's eligible, but it gets us most of the way there. Next week we anticipate receiving another 100 vaccines. At that point, we will have been able to offer a vaccine to every resident that is currently eligible. Once residents are vaccinated, an official vaccination card will be maintained by medical and the resident will be given a copy to keep while they are incarcerated. At release, we will provide the official vaccination record to the resident.

We're almost a full year into this pandemic, and I know folks are tired of dealing with COVID-19. I am too, but that's what makes this such a critical time for us to maintain our vigilance. I can't tell you how nice it is to go multiple days in a row without a single staff member testing positive. We're seeing positivity rates heading in the right direction with our resident population, staff, and the public at large. At the same time, we've heard that new strains of the virus have been detected in Idaho and we don't yet know the full implications. What we do know is that vaccinations offer us the quickest way back to any semblance of "normal" in our work and personal lives. We've also seen significant improvements in the infrastructure statewide to administer vaccines in Idaho and the state now ranks 6th in vaccine administration. We're hopeful this will lead to additional vaccine distribution to Idaho which can lead to a quicker easing of restrictions.

Much more to come. We've been busy with the legislative session on top of everything else going on, but next week I'll give an update on where we are with our budget and a couple other things working their way through the legislative process. Stay healthy, stay safe, and stay tuned! Have a great weekend!

Thanks-
Josh