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MEMO

To: Idaho Behavioral Health Plan Providers

From: Dr. Magni Hamso

Date: September 1, 2021

Re: Increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates

[COVID-19 cases are climbing across Idaho](#) and local hospitals are reporting being at or above capacity. We can turn this around by increasing our COVID-19 vaccination rates. [Idaho COVID-19 vaccination rates](#) continue to remain well below the national average and they are even lower among Idaho Medicaid participants. In fact, less than 10% of Idaho Medicaid participants have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are completely free and extremely safe and effective at preventing hospitalization and death. We encourage all Medicaid providers to talk to their staff and all eligible participants (including children ages 12 and older, pregnant women, and all other adults) about getting vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and their community. For more information about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines or to find out where to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine, go to coronavirus.idaho.gov.

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