



# IDAHO STATE BOARD OF PHARMACY

*newsletter to promote pharmacy and drug law compliance*

## **Beware of Board Impostors**

There have been several attempts to impersonate state employees from the health professional boards within the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL). These scams have ranged from phone calls, to letters, and even faxes. These are common scams among the boards of nursing, pharmacy, and medicine in Idaho and throughout the country.

The impostors have several different tactics/scams that they use. They send out “official” letters that look like they are from the state boards, requesting funds or else licenses will be suspended. They have even gone to the extent of providing the actual license number or National Provider Identifier to individuals. (Reminder, this is public information that can be looked up on the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy website.) The caller ID showed “ID State Gov” when some of the phone calls were made. The impersonator stated that there were suspicious/illegal activities involving the person’s license, such as drug trafficking.

Some attempts have involved claiming to be a “Chief Officer of Idaho” and referencing an ongoing investigation requiring the licensee to provide information. Scammers even went to the extent of providing badge numbers, case numbers, and references to statutes. They have become very detailed in their deception and use bits of personal information to convince licensees that they are authentic.

### ***National Pharmacy Compliance News***

A Service of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation (NABPF)

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***Read National News***

A licensee was contacted by an individual impersonating a DOPL investigator. The DOPL impersonator stated that the individual’s license had been suspended due to a drug trafficking investigation. The impersonator proceeded to ask for payment (wiring/gift cards), which would allow the licensee to continue working during the investigation.

#### Red Flags/Reminders:

- Investigators within DOPL do not have badge numbers. They have employee ID badges.
- If you are involved in an investigation, DOPL will send a certified letter to notify you.
- Payment is never handled through wiring/gift cards.

Here are some suggestions from an article the National Council of State Boards of Nursing released, titled “Be on High Alert for Spear Phishing Scams:”

1. If you receive a phone call, never give out your personal information during the call. Hang up and then only call a number back that you have determined is legitimate through your research.
2. Never reply to a text message asking for you to call the number provided in the text to discuss your imminent “suspension or revocation of your license.”
3. Never reply to an email asking for personal information.
4. Never call a number provided to you in a suspect letter or email.
5. Use your own verified numbers from the website to contact the Board.
6. Be vigilant! Do not discard or ignore such communication from scammers, but rather call and/or connect with the Board to report the scam.

If you are ever questioning such phone calls, letters, or faxes, please call or email DOPL directly from a number found on its website. Always verify suspicious communication.

### ***FDA Updates EUA to Allow Pharmacists to Prescribe Paxlovid***

The **emergency use authorization** (EUA) released by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) authorizes pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid with certain limitations. Paxlovid is used to treat patients 12 years or older who test positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and are at high risk for progression of severe COVID-19.

**“The FDA recognizes the important role pharmacists have played and continue to play in combatting this pandemic,” said Patrizia Cavazzoni, MD, director for FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. “Since Paxlovid must be taken within five days after symptoms begin, authorizing state-licensed pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid could expand access to timely treatment for some patients who are eligible to receive this drug for the treatment of COVID-19.”**

From Marcia Witte, MD, from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) Division of Public Health:

The distribution of COVID-19 oral antivirals is currently coordinated by the federal government on a weekly cycle. Each week, the federal government provides the states and territories a threshold amount against which orders can be placed. In Idaho, the Department of Health and Welfare solicits requests for the oral antivirals from participating sites and places the orders. The orders then go to the distributor, AmerisourceBergen,

who ships the therapeutics directly to the sites. Pharmacy networks that are part of the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Therapeutics Program](#) do not participate in the state-coordinated process and instead place orders directly with the federal government.

Pharmacies interested in receiving the COVID-19 oral antivirals can contact Dr Marcia Witte at the Idaho DHW for more information via email at [marcia.witte@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:marcia.witte@dhw.idaho.gov).

### **Attention CS Registrants: PDMP Delegate List Review**

Is your delegate list up to date? Now is the time to ensure that the delegates assigned by controlled substance (CS) registrants are still active and accurate. The delegate review is to ensure that delegate users of the Idaho Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) are still authorized to perform searches on their supervisor's behalf. **As a supervisor, you are responsible for activities performed within the system by your delegate(s).** Please take a moment to perform the delegate review by doing the following:

1. Log in to your [Idaho PDMP](#) account.
2. From your dashboard click "View All Delegates."
3. Review delegates listed.
4. If delegates are correct, take no further action. If a delegate should be changed, continue to step five.
5. Select any delegate to remove.
6. Click on "Remove."
7. Click on "Reject."
8. Repeat steps five, six, and seven until all unwanted delegates have been removed from the Delegate Management view.

### **Idaho's PDMP Information Coordinator Retires After 25 Years**

The Board would like to say thanks and farewell to Teresa Anderson. She retired after more than 25 years of service as Idaho's PDMP coordinator. Ms Anderson played an integral part in getting the PDMP up and running in Idaho. The Board wishes her well!

The Board welcomes new PDMP Information Coordinator Wendy Muir and Research Analyst Ellis Guzman. For questions related to PDMP registration or Gateway integration, contact Ms Muir or Mr Guzman.

#### **Wendy Muir**

PDMP Information Coordinator

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Research Analyst

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## Idaho PDMP (AWARxE) Resources

An overview of information is available on the Board's website at <https://bop.idaho.gov/idaho-pmp/>.

- Opioid Prescribing Guidelines and Use of Idaho PDMP Continuing Education Credit
  - <https://app.keysurvey.com/f/41569646/16d5/>
- Prescriber and Pharmacist Guides
  - [Idaho PDMP AWARxE Requestor User Support Manual](#)
  - [Idaho PDMP AWARxE: Data Submission Guide for Dispensers](#)
  - [PDMPWorks: Celebrating 10 Years of a Game Changing Solution: PMP InterConnect](#)

Over a decade ago, interstate data sharing between state PDMPs was uncommon, which led to compromised prescribing and dispensing decisions. See [NABP PMP InterConnect](#) for more information.
- Additional Information
  - [Echo Idaho](#) – “Use of the Prescription Monitoring Program and Board of Pharmacy Metrics”
  - [NarxCare](#) – Product information
  - [PMP Gateway](#) – Product information, Idaho drug overdose data dashboard

## Idaho DHW Safer Syringe Program: 2021 Annual Report

In the Board's June 2022 *Newsletter*, there was an article titled, “[Prevent Injection-Related Harm With Safer Syringe Access](#).” The 2021 annual report of the Safer Syringe Program (SSP) has been provided for a more in-depth look at the services supplied.

### Safer Communities

- 699,388 used syringes safely disposed of (return ratio 0.91), preventing injury
- Five community safe sharps disposal collection boxes installed in publicly accessible spaces
- Two “found syringe hotlines” operating
- Four community clean-up events held

### Reduction in Spread of Infection

- 633,174 sterile syringes provided, preventing the spread of HIV and hepatitis C
- 29,658 condoms distributed, preventing the spread of sexually transmitted infections
- An estimated 116 hepatitis C and 35 HIV infections averted, saving \$22 million in associated lifetime health care costs

### Saving Lives

- 5,192 naloxone kits distributed by SSP directly to people who use drugs, their friends, or family members

- At least 628 opioid-related overdoses reversed with naloxone
- One life is saved for eight doses of naloxone distributed

#### Pathway to Health Care and Recovery Provided

- 498 HIV tests performed, 86% of which were HIV home test kits
- 25 hepatitis C tests performed
- No new HIV or hepatitis C infections identified
- 915 recovery referrals requested

Program Contact: [Idaho DHW - HIV, STD, and Hepatitis Section](#)\_208/334-5612

### ***Idaho Telehealth Access Act COVID-19 Guidance Update***

The state of Idaho is under a federal declaration of emergency due to the ongoing occurrence and imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the effects of COVID-19. Pursuant to the emergency, DOPL will assist the current status of health care professional capacity by exercising enforcement discretion to provisions of the Telehealth Access Act to restore allowances from 2020. Any United States health care professional may provide telehealth services in or into Idaho, so long as the health care professional is licensed or registered and in good standing with another state or jurisdiction and acting in good faith.

A health care professional providing telehealth services in or into Idaho will consider the following provisions prior to providing patient care:

- must be licensed or registered in any US state or jurisdiction, and in good standing with no active or pending disciplinary action;
- must act in good faith, exercise reasonable care, and follow applicable federal regulations;
- must possess the necessary education, training, and experience for the services being provided; and
- must use sufficient technology to establish a patient-provider relationship for the services being provided.

The Division enforcement discretion is in place until January 1, 2023, unless extended by DOPL announcement. To ensure continuity of patient care after the waiver ends, health care professionals providing telehealth services should pursue Idaho licensure or prepare a transition plan for patient care.

### ***US Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Announce 988 Crisis Hotline***

There is a new national hotline available for individuals experiencing mental health crises. Dialing or texting 988 in Idaho will now route directly to the Idaho Crisis and Suicide Hotline. There is also an

online chat available at [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org). If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. More information about this new service is available at [988 Partner Toolkit on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration website](#).

### **Help Is Available for Impaired Pharmacists Through Idaho PRN**

The Board subsidizes the state's Pharmacist Recovery Network (PRN). The primary function of this program is to assist the impaired pharmacist in every aspect of recovery from chemical dependence, including intervention, consultation, monitoring, advocacy, education, and support. If you need confidential help – or know an associate who does – please contact the program's vendor, [Southworth Associates](#), by phone at 866/460-9014.



### **Special Notice**

The *Idaho State Board of Pharmacy Newsletter* is considered an official method of notification to pharmacies, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, pharmacy technicians, and CS registrants licensed and/or registered by the Board. Please read it carefully.

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*The Idaho State Board of Pharmacy News is published by the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Foundation® (NABPF®) to promote compliance of pharmacy and drug law. The opinions and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views, opinions, or policies of NABPF or the Board unless expressly so stated.*

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