

Coronavirus Long-term Care Strike Team

Team Members

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare:

Tamara Prisock, Administrator, Division of Licensing and Certification (co-chair)

Marcia Witte, MD, Public Health Physician, Division of Public Health (co-chair)

Cheryl Craig, Epidemiologist, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention

Wayne Denny, Chief, Bureau of EMS and Preparedness

Dharmraj Giri, Manager, Health-Associated Infections Program

Beth Kriete, Deputy Division Administrator, Medicaid

Mezelle Moore, Hospital Preparedness Program

Debby Ransom, Chief, Bureau of Facility Standards (SNF/ICF)

Jamie Simpson, Program Supervisor, Residential Assisted Living Facilities

External Partners:

Carolyn Bridges, MD, Governor's Coronavirus Working Group

Megan Dunay, MD, Boise VA Medical Center

Zendi Meharry, Idaho Health Care Association

Tracy Schaner, Idaho Division of Veteran's Services

Amanda Scott, Idaho Commission on Aging

Mike Sharp, Licensed Assisted Living Administrator

Jodi Vanderpool, St. Luke's Health System

Purpose

Established in early March 2020, the purpose of the Coronavirus Long-term Care Strike Team is to identify and execute immediate actions aimed at addressing the challenges associated with protecting Idaho's aged population from exposure to the coronavirus. The team will also monitor executed actions for effectiveness and the need for additional interventions.

The team's focus is in these areas:

- Infection control
- Facility staffing
- Optimize care locations
- Information Dissemination

Scope

Primary audience:

Long-term residential care facilities (nursing homes and assisted living facilities)

Rationale: Seniors with underlying health conditions requiring 24/7 care in congregate residential settings are highest risk for acquiring and experiencing serious health consequences of COVID-19.

Secondary audiences:

- Certified Family Homes
- Independent living facilities with congregate activities (dining, recreational activities, etc)
- In-home caregivers
- Hospice and home health agencies
- Individuals with developmental disabilities living independently

The team is focusing action plans on the primary audience for now but will make educational information available for secondary audiences.