

COVID-19 BRIEFING

Updates on COVID-19 in Idaho

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

December 4, 2020

Welcome to the Department of Health and Welfare's new, bi-weekly briefing on the department's latest news, communications activities, and resources for the pandemic. This briefing will also be available on the coronavirus website at <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/>

COVID-19 STATISTICS

Idaho last week surpassed 100,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and this week surpassed the grim milestone of 1,000 COVID-19-related deaths. As of Dec. 4, there have been 106,455 cases and 1,014 deaths in Idaho. Idaho last week also reached a statewide COVID-19 positivity rate of 19.4%, the highest rate in the state since the onset of the pandemic.

IDAHO HOT SPOTS

Over the past week, the counties seeing the highest COVID-19 infection rates in Idaho include Madison, Gem, and Lewis. Those counties have been seeing 7-day moving average incident rates of 130.3, 113.6, and 107.9 per 100,000 people respectively.

COVID-19 VACCINE

Idaho continues to plan for the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine as the U.S. Food & Drug Administration considers emergency use authorization for two different vaccines so far. Idaho is expected to receive an initial allotment of 13,650 doses potentially by mid-December followed by larger allotments in the following weeks.



The Idaho Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC) at its Dec. 4 meeting made a recommendation about which populations will be prioritized for Phases 1a and 1b in Idaho's COVID-19 vaccination plan. The recommendation will be delivered to Gov. Brad Little, who will make the final decision.

CVAC is recommending Phase 1a include healthcare workers and residents of long-term care facilities. Skilled nurses and those working in assisted living and intermediate care facilities are counted as healthcare workers in this phase.

CVAC is recommending Phase 1b of the vaccination plan include essential workers not included in Phase 1a. CVAC is recommending the following types of essential workers be prioritized for vaccination in Phase 1b in the following order:

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- First responders, including fire, police, protective services and community support personnel.
 - Pre-K-12 school staff and teachers and daycare workers
 - Correctional and detention facility staff, except medical staff already in Phase 1a
 - Food processing workers
 - Grocery and convenience store workers
 - Idaho National Guard
 - Other essential workers not already included and unable to telework or social distance at work
- For more information about COVID-19 vaccine and the committee visit <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-covid-19-vaccine-advisory-committee/>.

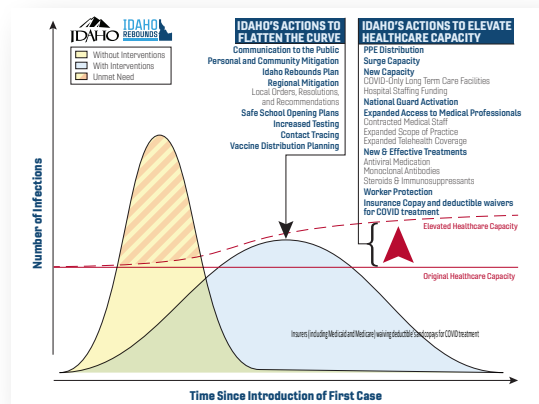
GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS

Idaho remains in modified Stage 2 of the Idaho Rebounds reopening plan after Gov. Brad Little's latest health order, announced on Nov. 14. To view the complete order visit <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/stage-2-modified-order.pdf>.

For more information on the Idaho Rebounds plan visit <https://rebound.idaho.gov/>.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (DHW) SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

DHW this week will launch a social media campaign about the efficacy and safety of COVID-19 vaccine and another one encouraging mask wearing with a focus on personal choice. The slogan for the latter campaign is "change begins with a choice." Another campaign encouraging mask wearing, one highlighting COVID-19 hotspots in Idaho, and another promoting Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for holiday gatherings are ongoing. Be sure to follow DHW on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram for the latest.



DHW COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

DHW created a communications toolkit containing social media tiles, digital posters, and flyers aimed at keeping Idahoans safe from COVID-19. The free materials are for healthcare providers, businesses, and other interested stakeholders, and can be branded or adapted for social media campaigns or other forms of outreach. The materials include the following campaigns:

- Do it for him/her/them
- Recommended precautions
- Get tested
- Gathering guidelines
- Change begins with a choice

The materials will also be available in Spanish. The toolkit is at <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/covid-19-communications-toolkit/>.

NEW ON THE CORONAVIRUS WEBSITE

Abbot BinaxNow rapid antigen COVID-19 test guidance is at https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Abbot-BINAXNow-Guidance-Revision-FINAL-2020_11_12.pdf

List of approved COVID-exclusive long-term care facilities is at <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/List-of-COVID-Exclusive-Facilities-Nov-2020.pdf>

Holiday visitation guidance for long-term care facilities is at https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Holiday-Visitation-Guidance-for-Long-term-Care-Facilities_11-23-2020-002.pdf



COVID-19 DATA DASHBOARD

DHW manages a COVID-19 dashboard with data on cases statewide, by public health district, and by county. A weekly hotspots and local trends page includes data on the counties with the highest number of cases in a given week.

Case data is updated daily at 5 p.m., hospitalization data is updated Monday, Wednesday and Friday by 5 p.m. and percent positivity testing data is updated by 5 p.m. MT Thursdays. To access the dashboard visit coronavirus.idaho.gov and select the COVID-19 Data Dashboard.



SCHOOLS

The summary of COVID-19 cases associated with schools in Idaho at coronavirus.idaho.gov is published on Mondays under the “Schools” tab at <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/resources-for-schools/>.

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The summary of COVID-19 cases associated with long-term care facilities in Idaho at coronavirus.idaho.gov is published on Fridays under the “Long-Term Care” tab at <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/ltc/>.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

There are numerous Behavioral Health resources available for Idahoans who may be struggling with mental health or substance-use related issues during the pandemic, including:

- A COVID Help Now phone and text line for anyone in need of support. Call or text **986-867-1073** or toll free at **866-947-5186**.
- Counseling assistance for frontline and essential workers is available by calling **866-536-0239**
- Substance use disorder services for qualifying Idahoans impacted by COVID-19, including uninsured and low-income individuals. Services can include assessment, social detox, outpatient and inpatient services, drug/alcohol testing, safe and sober housing, case management, and more.
- Additional funding for statewide behavioral health crisis centers that can help walk-in clients in behavioral health crisis
- Opportunities for hospitals or partnering organizations to develop Emergency Department Psychiatric Triage Centers that would provide behavioral health emergency services to those without a critical medical health need, resulting in increased availability of Emergency Department resources for people with COVID-19

To learn more about the behavioral health resources available visit <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/behavioral-health/>.

NEW ONE IDAHO TELEVISION SPOTS

Below are the new ONE Idaho television spots featuring real Idahoans speaking about their experiences with COVID-19 and why they choose to wear a mask.

- Jason, a COVID-19 survivor:

<https://youtu.be/5qIMk7wMuE8>

- Rachel, respiratory therapist:

<https://youtu.be/spoMaAET04o>

- Liza, working mom:

<https://youtu.be/hG4tUFtchYU>



CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE

Idaho's crisis standards of care plan will be implemented when a disaster event overwhelms usual health and medical capabilities and capacities, resulting in an inability of the healthcare system to provide the standard levels of care to patients. The plan is at https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Crisis-Standards-of-Care-Plan_Final_Posted_Signed.pdf.

DHW BLOG

The DHW blog features a new blog twice a week. The latest one is a Q&A about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccine, who will get it first and when. The blog is at <https://dhwblog.com/>.



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