

COVID-19 BRIEFING

Updates on COVID-19 in Idaho



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

Feb. 12, 2021

Welcome to the Department of Health and Welfare's bi-weekly briefing on the department's latest news, communications activities, and resources for the pandemic. New in this edition of the briefing is information on a new COVID-19 vaccine data dashboard, a new federal program that increases Idaho's vaccine allotment, recent changes to the groups eligible for the vaccine, and more. New sections are marked "NEW" and all other sections are up-to-date as of the time of publishing.

NEW
INFORMATION

COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION TRANSPARENCY DATA DASHBOARD

Launched this week, Idaho's [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Transparency Data dashboard](#) shows the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses that individual providers and local public health districts have been allocated and the number of doses that remain for them to administer. The dashboard tracks vaccinations based on where the dose was administered. By contrast, the [COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard](#), which has been live for several weeks, tracks vaccinated people based on where they live. The new dashboard updates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. It will soon update daily.

NEW
INFORMATION

FEDERAL RETAIL PHARMACY PROGRAM FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

Starting yesterday, Feb. 11, [this program](#) sends 5,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Idaho in addition to the 25,000 doses the state is already receiving each week. The doses are sent directly to and will be administered by select Walmart and Albertsons locations.

NEW
INFORMATION

JOHNSON & JOHNSON COVID-19 VACCINE

Johnson & Johnson last week submitted a request for emergency use authorization (EUA) for its COVID-19 vaccine candidate. If the EUA is granted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), then the vaccine will become the third COVID-19 vaccine to be approved for use in the United States. Unlike the other approved vaccines, this one requires just one dose.

According to [results from a phase 3](#) trial of the drug, the vaccine is 66 percent effective overall at preventing moderate to severe COVID-19, 28 days after vaccination. The drug is also 85% effective overall in preventing severe disease and demonstrated complete protection against COVID-19 related hospitalization and death.



GROUPS ELIGIBLE FOR COVID-19 VACCINE IN IDAHO

The following groups of people are among those who can get vaccinated right now:

- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Healthcare workers
- Long-term care facility residents and staff
- First responders (including law enforcement officers and dispatchers)
- Pre-K-12th grade school teachers and staff
- Child care staff
- Correctional and detention facility staff

See the [complete list](#) of groups eligible for the vaccine now and who's next.

Those eligible for the vaccine should contact their employer or local public health district for more information and to schedule an appointment. Find the vaccine hotlines and websites for your [local public health district](#). Hotlines are experiencing huge volumes of calls. If you have access to a computer, please consider accessing information on the health districts' websites.

See information on [what to expect at your vaccine appointment](#).

IDAHO COVID-19 VACCINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CVAC)

During its most recent meeting on Feb. 5, CVAC voted on several clarifications to Groups 1 and 2 of Idaho's COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Gov. Little has since approved the recommendations. CVAC's votes are as follows:

- CVAC reversed a previous vote that placed adult family members who provide in-home personal care in Group 1.2, which is currently eligible for vaccine. With this vote, that population has been removed from Group 1.2 and will be re-considered at a later date.
- CVAC voted to include a subset of essential gas, electric, and water utility workers who work indoors in Group 2.3, which is expected to be eligible for the vaccine later this month.
- CVAC voted to have interpreters (ASL or other language) vaccinated with the sector and setting in which they work.
- CVAC voted against having construction workers vaccinated with the sector for which they are doing the construction.
- CVAC voted against placing licensed massage therapists with physical therapists in Group 1.4, which is eligible for vaccine right now.
- CVAC voted against including certified Pilates instructors with physical therapists in Group 1.4.
- CVAC voted against including immigration legal services in Group 2.1, which is eligible for the vaccine right now.



COVID-19 VACCINE ALLOCATION, ORDERING, & DISTRIBUTION FLOW

DHW created an [infographic](#) outlining how COVID-19 vaccine is allocated, ordered, and distributed.



GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS

On Feb. 2, Gov. Brad Little announced statewide metrics to justify returning to Stage 3 of the Idaho Rebounds Plan. Under the Stage 3 Stay Healthy Guidelines, gatherings should be limited to 50 or fewer people, though the rule doesn't apply to political and religious expression. See the [press release](#) for more information about the move.

On Jan. 29, Gov. Little issued an [executive order](#) requiring the creation of the aforementioned [COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Transparency Data dashboard](#).

COVID-19 VACCINE FAQ

DHW's [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#) has been redesigned to make information more easily accessible. The FAQ is updated weekly.

COVID-19 STATISTICS

As of Feb. 11, 167,140 people have received at least one dose of vaccine in Idaho. A total of 46,680 people have received both doses.

As of Feb. 11, there have been 166,876 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and a total of 1,791 COVID-19-related deaths in Idaho.

Over the past week, the counties seeing the highest COVID-19 infection rates in Idaho include Blaine, Madison and Boundary. Those counties have been seeing 7-day moving average incident rates of 45.3, 40.1, and 39.7 per 100,000 people respectively.

COVID-19 statistics can be found on the [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). Case data is now updated Monday through Saturday 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 on Thursdays.

Also on the coronavirus website is the [COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard](#). It includes COVID-19 vaccinations by county and public health district, cumulative doses administered, trend data and more. Additional data may be added in the future. The dashboard updates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION ONLINE

The [COVID-19 vaccination information web page](#) was launched to help Idahoans find information on when and where to get vaccinated and what to expect when they get to their appointment.

Local public health districts are responsible for implementing vaccination plans, and enrolled COVID-19 vaccine provider information is on each public health district website. But the new resource offers just one place where all Idahoans can find out when they are eligible to receive the vaccine and where to access enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers in their area. The page also tells Idahoans which priority groups, by occupation and age, are next in line for the vaccine.

The [COVID-19 vaccine section](#) on the coronavirus website is updated daily. The page includes a comprehensive COVID-19 FAQ that is updated weekly, information on how to volunteer during the pandemic, recordings of DHW's media briefings, and a schedule of meeting dates for the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as well as Idaho's COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC), among other resources.

There is also a link available with [resources for COVID-19 vaccine providers](#).

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DHW WEEKLY MEDIA BRIEFINGS

DHW has hosted weekly media briefings about COVID-19 vaccine every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. since Jan. 5. The remote events have included updates from Gov. Little and DHW officials, followed by a question-and-answer session with members of the media.

For more information about the briefings see a [press release](#). [Recordings](#) of past media briefings are posted on the coronavirus website.

SCHOOLS

The summary of COVID-19 cases associated with schools in Idaho at the [coronavirus website](#) is published on Mondays under the [“Schools” tab](#).

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The summary of COVID-19 cases associated with long-term care facilities in Idaho at the [coronavirus website](#) is published on Fridays under the [“Long-Term Care” tab](#).



DHW BLOG

The [DHW blog](#) features a new blog twice a week. The most recent blog:

“DHW offers additional grants to childcare providers affected by COVID-19 to help them stay open.”

DHW COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

DHW’s [communications toolkit](#) contains social media tiles, digital posters, flyers, and videos aimed at keeping Idahoans safe from the spread of COVID-19.

The materials are for healthcare providers, businesses, and other interested stakeholders, and they can be branded or adapted for social media campaigns and other forms of outreach. The toolkit will be updated regularly, so check back for new content.

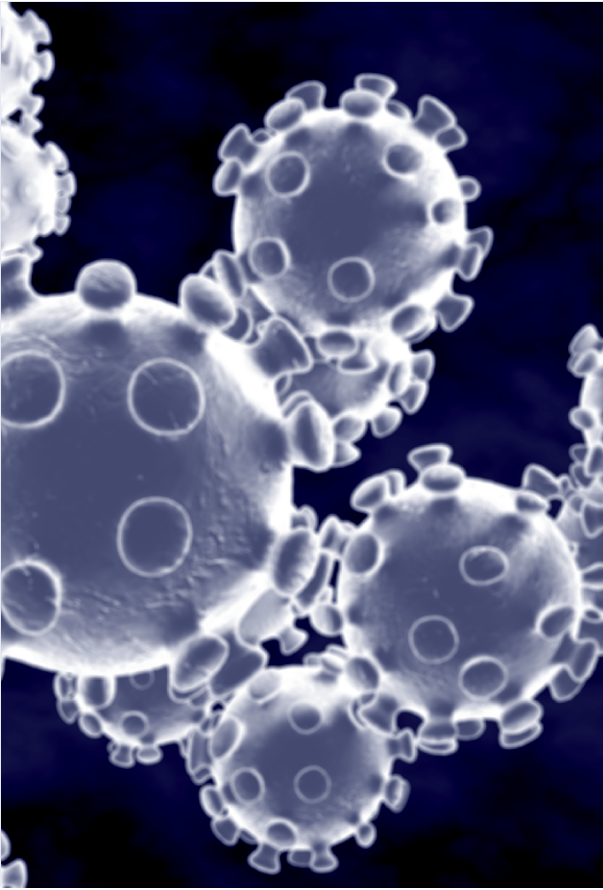
DHW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Social media campaigns remain focused on the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine in Idaho. The latest campaign urges Idahoans to not let their guard down and continue following recommended precautions such as mask wearing and physical distancing. Posts are also communicating the latest vaccine-related statistics as well as information on how and where to get vaccinated, potential vaccine side effects and corrections to vaccine-related myths.

**COVID-19
COMMUNICATIONS
TOOLKIT** Office of Communications
January 2021

THE COVID-19
VACCINE IS
FREE
FOR EVERYONE!





BUSTING COVID-19 MYTHS

MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines that use mRNA alter your DNA.

FACT: mRNA is not able to alter or modify a person's genetic makeup (DNA). The mRNA from a COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA are. COVID-19 vaccines that use mRNA work with the body's natural defenses to safely develop protection (immunity) to disease.

MYTH: People have to pay for COVID-19 vaccine.

FACT: The vaccine is available at no cost but providers can charge an administration fee to your insurance company. However, no one can be denied a vaccine if they are unable to pay the administration fees.

COMMUNICATIONS FORUM

DHW's Office of Communications, in partnership with the Gov. Brad Little's communications director, created a forum for communications professionals in state agencies, health districts, healthcare agencies and facilities, and stakeholders to meet every other Monday to discuss COVID-19-related communications efforts and strategies. The next meeting is on March. 1. If you are a communications professional and would like to join the call, send an email to communications@dhw.idaho.gov.