

# COVID-19 BRIEFING

Updates on COVID-19 in Idaho



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH & WELFARE

April 9, 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 COVID-19 pandemic. New in this edition of the briefing is Gov. Little's latest executive order, a new Spanish language PSA, information about minors seeking COVID-19 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 ELIGIBILITY

As of April 6, anyone who lives or works in Idaho who is 16 years of age or older is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. DHW encourages everyone who is eligible to pre-register for their vaccine appointment with the [state's pre-registration system](#). After signing up, registrants will be contacted by an enrolled COVID-19 vaccine provider when appointments and vaccine are available.

NEW  
INFORMATION

## DO MINORS NEED PARENTAL CONSENT TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE IN IDAHO?

So far, only the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has emergency use authorization to be given to anyone 16 years of age or older. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines have an EUA for anyone 18 years of age and older. In Idaho, minors must have consent from a parent or guardian to receive a vaccination unless the minor meets a statutory exemption or obtains court approval to provide their own consent. Vaccine providers should consult with their legal counsel if they do not intend to require parental consent from minors. The bottom line is it's up to healthcare providers to determine if the minor has the ability to consent to their own care.

NEW  
INFORMATION

## GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS

This week, Gov. Brad Little signed an [executive order](#) banning any state of Idaho governmental entity from requiring so called "vaccine passports" or proof of COVID-19 vaccination in order for residents to receive public services or access facilities. See the [press release](#) for more information.

Idaho remains in 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.

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### VACCINE CONFIDENCE TV SPOTS

The state has produced seven public service announcements aimed at promoting confidence in COVID-19 vaccines by focusing on safety and efficacy. The latest one, a [Spanish language PSA](#) featuring Bosie-based Dr. Hafid Mantilla, debuted on Spanish-language outlets this week.

NEW  
INFORMATION

### CDC'S UPDATED DOMESTIC TRAVEL GUIDANCE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on April 2 published [updated domestic travel](#) guidance. According to the new guidance, people who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-approved vaccine can travel safely within the United States. They do not need to get tested before or after travel unless their destination requires it, and fully vaccinated travelers do not need to self-quarantine.



### VACCINE WASTAGE

As of April 6, a reported 1,155 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have gone to waste in Idaho. That is 0.135% of the total doses delivered to Idaho-enrolled providers to date.

Storage and transportation issues and challenges filling appointments are some reasons doses may go to waste. Additional reasons for wastage include not being able to pull the total number of doses out of the vial (for example, if a provider can't fill a syringe with the full volume needed for the last dose in a vial, that dose would have to be reported as wastage since a vaccine recipient should receive the full amount of vaccine recommended by the manufacturer).

### COVID-19 SUPPORT GROUP

DHW in conjunction with Empower Idaho, is offering a series of virtual, interactive support groups for all Idahoans interested in learning how to cope with the challenges and stress of a year of COVID-19. The group meets every other Tuesday [as of March 23](#) at 12:30 p.m. MDT (11:30 a.m. PDT) for up to an hour. [Registration is required](#). The series will end on June 29. See a [press release](#) for more information.

NEW  
INFORMATION

### BREAKTHROUGH CASES

Breakthrough cases refer to COVID-19 infections of people no sooner than 14 days after becoming fully vaccinated.

As of April 6, the state was investigating a total of 109 breakthrough cases, which represented 0.03% of fully vaccinated Idahoans. Of those, 57 people received the Pfizer vaccine, 49 received the Moderna vaccine, two people received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and for one case the brand of the vaccine is still being determined.



# COVID-19 STATISTICS



Idaho is now receiving about 82,000 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine each week.

As of April 8, 509,052 people have received vaccine and 335,527 people are fully vaccinated in Idaho.

As of April 8, there have been 182,841 cases of COVID-19 and a total of 1,989 COVID-19-confirmed deaths in Idaho.

As of April 8, 108 variants of concern have been identified in Idaho.

Over the past week, the counties seeing the highest COVID-19 infection rate in Idaho include Madison, Clark, and Bonneville. Those counties have been seeing 7-day moving average incident rates of 50.1, 33.8, and 27.5 per 100,000 people respectively.

COVID-19 statistics can be found on the [COVID-19 Case, Laboratory, and Hospital Data Dashboard](#). Case data is now updated Monday through Friday by 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 Monday through Friday by 1 p.m. (not including holidays).

## DHW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

DHW social media posts continue to communicate the latest information about the pandemic and rollout of COVID-19 vaccine, the importance of following recommended precautions, DHW resources for the pandemic, and the facts about the vaccines to help bust the myths.

Recent social media campaigns have promoted the state's new advertising campaign about vaccine confidence, its pre-registration system for vaccine appointments, and expanded pandemic aid available to foster youth.

## COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION ONLINE

The [COVID-19 vaccination information web page](#) includes information on when and where to get vaccinated, and what to expect at a vaccine appointment.

The [COVID-19 vaccine section](#) on the coronavirus website is updated frequently. 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](#).





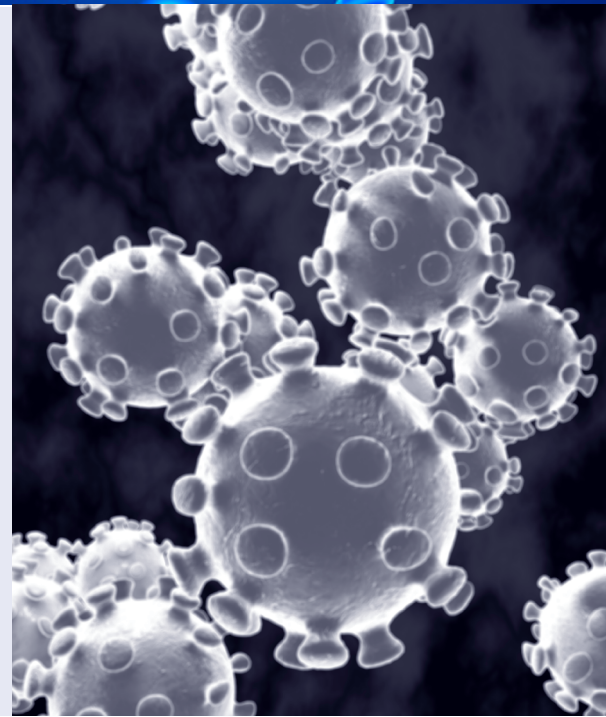
# BUSTING COVID-19 MYTHS

**MYTH:** Can mRNA COVID-19 vaccines lead to auto immune disease?

**FACT:** No. There is no evidence that messenger RNA, or mRNA, vaccines made by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna cause autoimmune disease. The mRNA from the vaccine is broken down shortly after vaccination and does not stay in the body.

**MYTH:** Can COVID-19 vaccines cause autism in children?

**FACT:** No COVID-19 vaccine is yet available for children under 16. Vaccines do not cause autism. Multiple studies show that there is no difference in autism rates between vaccinated and unvaccinated children.



## 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](#).

## WEEKLY MEDIA BRIEFINGS

DHW has hosted weekly media briefings about COVID-19 vaccine every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. since Jan. 5. As of April 6, the media briefings cover any COVID-19-related topic, and not just vaccine. 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.

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## 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 April 12. If you are a communications professional and would like to join the call, send an email to [communications@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:communications@dhw.idaho.gov).