

COVID-19 BRIEFING

Updates on COVID-19 in Idaho



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

June 30, 2021

Welcome to the Department of Health and Welfare's monthly briefing on the department's latest news, communications activities, and resources for the COVID-19 pandemic.

New in this edition of the briefing is free COVID-19 testing offered by DHW, a new tool for accessing mobile vaccine clinics, and results of the state's recent survey of unvaccinated Idahoans. New sections are marked "NEW," and all other sections are up-to-date as of the time of publishing.

NEW
INFORMATION



**FREE
AT-HOME
COVID-19 TEST
AVAILABLE BY
DIALING 2-1-1**

DHW is offering free at-home COVID-19 tests to Idaho residents. Tests can be requested by calling 2-1-1, and no personal information is required other than a name and mailing address. Anyone who experiences COVID-19 symptoms is encouraged to get tested. See the [press release](#) for more information.

NEW
INFORMATION

MOBILE COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS IN IDAHO

DHW created a [new map](#) that allows users to find mobile vaccination clinics near them. The page, which is regularly updated, shows current and upcoming clinics in both English and Spanish.

NEW
INFORMATION

SURVEY OF UNVACCINATED IDAHOANS

Idaho recently completed a survey with 300 Idahoans who are currently unvaccinated. The goal of the survey was to understand if the participants will choose, at some point, to get vaccinated and what would be the reason. And, if they are choosing to not get vaccinated, what has led them to that decision?

Highlights of the survey include:

- Many unvaccinated people are in the "wait and see how things go" mindset. This means people will decide, in their own time, when they will get the vaccine.
- Many people also indicated that they wanted to wait around a year to see how things were going.
- Most unvaccinated people are not concerned about getting COVID-19. They express concerns about safety and side effects of the available vaccines.
- For those who are likely to get the vaccine, convenience is a major concern. Idahoans prefer to get the vaccine at a pharmacy.

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DHW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS

DHW is still offering grants to establish and operate mobile, off-site, walk-in, and special COVID-19 vaccination clinics in underserved populations. That includes communities of high social vulnerabilities, racial and ethnic minority populations, and rural communities, among others.

A total of \$9 million is available on a first-come, first-served basis to enrolled COVID-19 vaccine providers, who can [apply for funding](#).

See the [press release](#) for more information.



COVID-19 STATISTICS

As of June 29, 1,327,702 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Idaho. A total of 661,606 people are now fully vaccinated in the state, and more than 50% of Idahoans age 18+ have received at least one dose of vaccine.

As of the same date, there have been 194,901 cases of COVID-19 in Idaho, and 2,149 COVID-19-related deaths since the start of the pandemic.

As of June 19, statewide PCR percent positivity was 2.9% — down from 3.6% the week before.

COVID-19 statistics, including breakthrough cases, can be found on the [COVID-19 Case, Laboratory, and Hospital Data Dashboard](#). State-level case, laboratory, and hospital data is updated by 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Data on variants of concern and percent positivity is updated by 5 p.m. MT on Thursdays.

Also on the coronavirus website is the [COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard](#). It includes data on COVID-19 vaccinations by county, public health district, age group, race, and ethnicity; information about pre-registrations for COVID-19 vaccine appointments, and an interactive tool that shows how long it will take to vaccinate a given percentage of Idaho's population, among other data. The dashboard updates Monday through Friday by 1 p.m. (not including holidays).



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DHW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

Recent social media campaigns have shared information about mobile vaccine clinics and the department's grant opportunity for vaccine clinics, as well as daily updates on percent positivity, case counts, and vaccination milestones. Recent campaigns have also highlighted long-term care facility heroes in Idaho who have gone above and beyond during the pandemic, and campaigns continue to dispel common vaccine-related myths.



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 the comprehensive COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ that is updated regularly, 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), among other resources.

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

BUSTING COVID-19 MYTHS

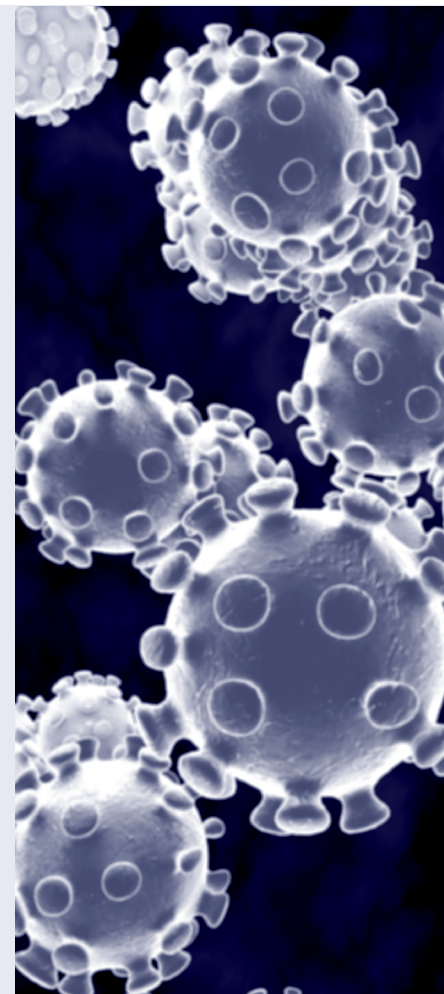
MYTH: Vaccinated people “shed” proteins onto those who are not vaccinated and cause them to have adverse side effects such as infertility and miscarriages.

FACT: This is completely false. Vaccinated people do not shed any proteins or anything else that might cause infertility, miscarriages, or anything else that would cause health issues.

MYTH: There's no reason to vaccinate adolescents against COVID-19 because they don't get COVID-19 as often.

FACT: While children and adolescents are at lower risk of severe COVID-19 illness compared with adults, they can become seriously ill from COVID-19 and spread the virus when infected. Currently 14% of total COVID-19 cases in the US have been reported in children and adolescents, however due to under-reporting, CDC estimates the rate could be as high as 19%.

COVID-19 infection is also linked to a serious condition called multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). Different systems in the body become inflamed and the inflammation seriously affects different organs and systems including the heart, blood vessels, kidneys, digestive system, and brain.

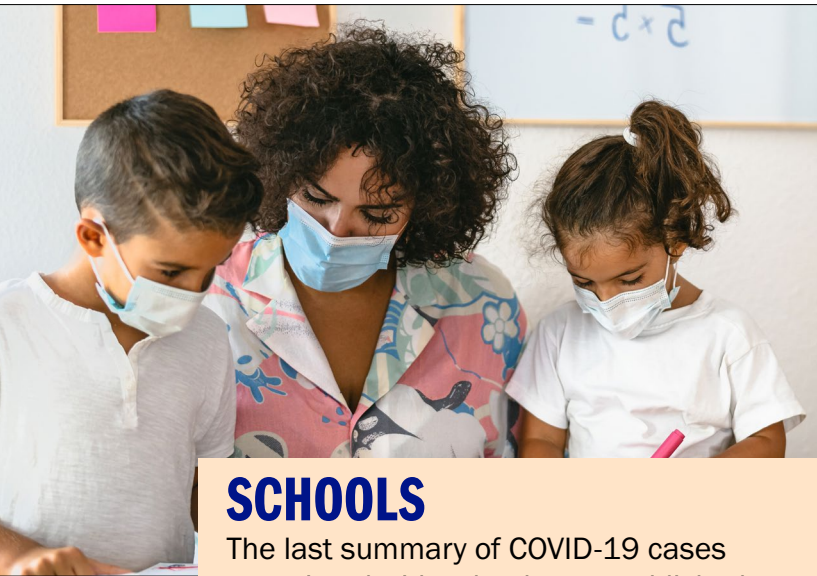


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SCHOOLS

The last summary of COVID-19 cases associated with schools was published on the [coronavirus website](#) under the “[Schools](#)” [tab](#) on June 7 for the school year.



LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

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

MEDIA BRIEFINGS

DHW has hosted regular media briefings about COVID-19 since January. The briefings are now 30-minutes long and are held every other week, though there will not be a briefing during the 4th of July week. The next scheduled briefing is on July 20. 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.



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 regularly to discuss COVID-19-related communications efforts and strategies. If you are a communications professional and would like to join the call, send an email to communications@dhw.idaho.gov.