

COVID-19 BRIEFING

Updates on COVID-19 in Idaho



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

July 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 are the state's new COVID-19 vaccine confidence ads, CDC's updated guidance on mask wearing, the latest statistics on the vaccination status of COVID-19 cases, 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 CONFIDENCE ADS

The state has produced a new round of public service announcements aimed at promoting confidence in COVID-19 vaccines. The ads feature Idahoans from different walks of life explaining why they chose to get vaccinated.

The first ad, which debuted last week and features a Meridian-based mother discussing why her kids got vaccinated, can be found [here](#).

NEW
INFORMATION

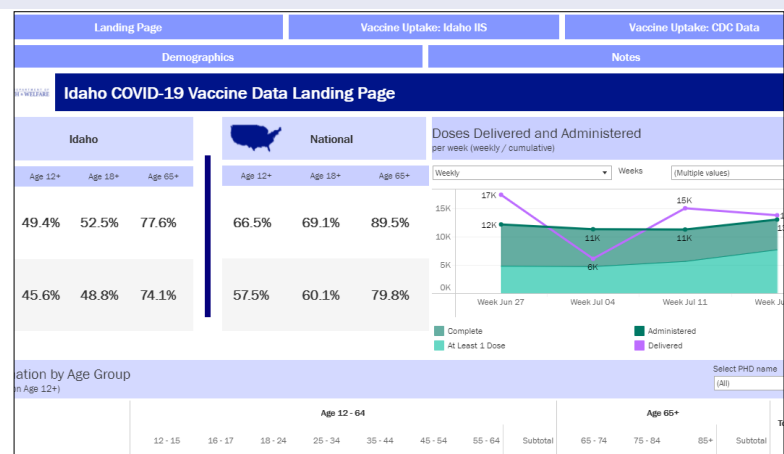
CDC UPDATES GUIDANCE ON MASK WEARING

The CDC on July 27 updated its guidance on mask wearing to now recommend fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors when in areas with "substantial" and "high" transmission of COVID-19. Learn more about the latest guidance [here](#).

NEW
INFORMATION

REVAMPED COVID-19 VACCINE DATA DASHBOARD

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare updated and simplified the [COVID-19 Vaccine Data Dashboard](#) to reflect the changing nature of the pandemic and the ready supply of COVID-19 vaccine in the state. For a summary of the changes see the [press release](#).



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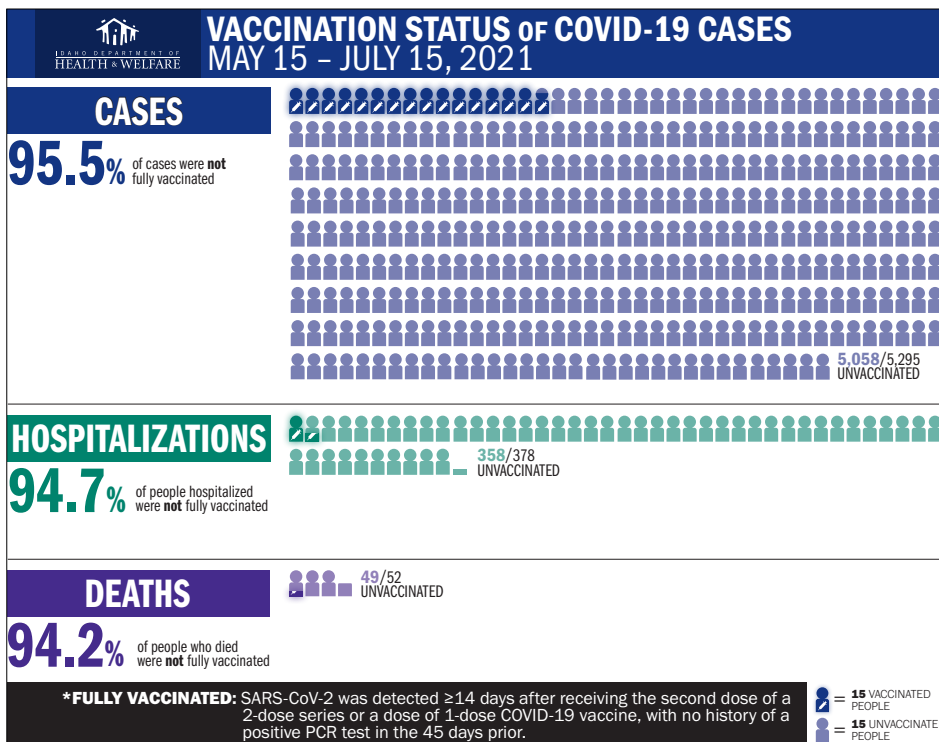


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VACCINATION STATUS OF COVID-19 CASES

The graphic to the right illustrates the vaccination status of COVID-19 cases in Idaho between May 15 - July 15, 2021.



ADDITIONAL COVID-19 STATISTICS

As of July 29, 1,385,194 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Idaho. A total of 690,726 people are now fully vaccinated.

As of July 29, there have been 199,955 cases of COVID-19 and a total of 2,195 COVID-19-related deaths in Idaho.

Over the past week, the counties seeing the highest COVID-19 infection rates in Idaho include Lewis, Adams, and Twin Falls. Those counties have been seeing 7-day moving average incident rates of 40.9, 39.9, and 27.8 per 100,000 people respectively.

As of July 29, statewide percent positivity is 8% – a sharp increase from 5.6% the week prior. There have been 818 breakthrough cases and over 1000 variants of concern, including 70 cases of the delta variant, have been detected in Idaho to date.

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.

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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.

MOBILE COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS IN IDAHO

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



DHW SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

One recent social media campaign described the types of people that still choose to wear a mask while requesting Idahoans respect the personal choices of others. Posts also continue to debunk the latest vaccine-related myths, and share information about mobile vaccine clinics as well as daily updates on percent positivity, case counts, and vaccination milestones. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



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.

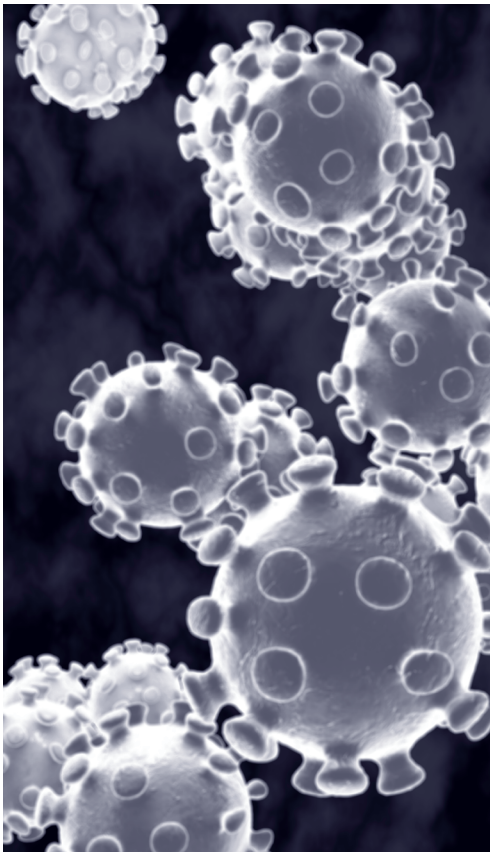
The [COVID-19 vaccine section](#) on the coronavirus website is updated frequently. The page includes the comprehensive COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ that is updated regularly, recordings of DHW's media briefings, underlying medical conditions that put people at greater risk for COVID-19, and Governor's actions, among other resources.

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





BUSTING COVID-19 MYTHS



MYTH: COVID-19 vaccines cause miscarriages.

FACT: A review of vaccine safety in pregnant women was published in June in the New England Journal of Medicine. The review concluded that there is currently no evidence of increased risk of miscarriage, specifically stating in the paper that, “Early data from the v-safe surveillance system, the v-safe pregnancy registry, and the VAERS do not indicate any obvious safety signals with respect to pregnancy or neonatal outcomes associated with Covid-19 vaccination in the third trimester of pregnancy. Continued monitoring is needed to further assess maternal, pregnancy, neonatal, and childhood outcomes associated with maternal Covid-19 vaccination, including in earlier stages of pregnancy and during the preconception period. Meanwhile, the present data can help inform decision making about vaccination by pregnant persons and their health care providers.”

MYTH: Reports of COVID-19-related side effects in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) means the reported problem was caused by a vaccine.

FACT: Co-managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), VAERS is a national early warning system to detect possible safety problems in U.S.-licensed vaccines.

VAERS is a passive reporting system, meaning it relies on individuals to send in reports of their experiences to CDC and FDA. Anyone can submit a report to VAERS, including parents and patients who believe they may have experienced an adverse reaction to a vaccine. Reports of adverse events (possible side effects) after vaccination do not mean that the reported problem was caused by a vaccine. Reports are used as signals to alert scientists of possible cause-and-effect relationships that need to be investigated.

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](#).



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MEDIA BRIEFINGS

DHW has hosted regular media briefings about COVID-19 vaccine since January. The next one is scheduled for Aug. 3.

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, visit coronavirus.idaho.gov. [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 discuss COVID-19-related communications efforts and strategies. The next meeting is August 23. If you are a communications professional and would like to join the call, send an email to communications@dhw.idaho.gov.