

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
DECLARATION OF DEACTIVATION OF CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE
FOR THE PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT**

DATE OF DECLARATION: DECEMBER 20, 2021

The Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (the “Department”) is authorized by Idaho Code § 56-1003(3) to exercise general supervision and promotion and protection of the health of Idahoans. Further, pursuant to its authority under Idaho Code § 56-1003(2), the Idaho Board of Health and Welfare approved the Crisis Standards of Care for Health Care Entities contained in IDAPA 16.02.09.

Crisis standards of care (CSC) provide guidelines that help healthcare providers and systems decide how to deliver the best care possible under the extraordinary circumstances of an overwhelming disaster or public health emergency. The guidelines are used when there are not enough healthcare resources to provide the usual standard of care to people who need it. The goal of crisis standards of care is to extend care to as many patients as possible and save as many lives as possible.

Deactivation of CSC is appropriate when resources are sufficient to provide the usual standard of care.

The CSC Activation Committee (the “Committee”) convened on September 6, 2021 and recommended the activation of CSC in the Panhandle and Northern Central Health Districts based on a request from Kootenai Health. Subsequently, CSC was activated on September 6, 2021 for Districts 1 and 2. The Committee met again on September 15, 2021, and recommended CSC be activated statewide because of the increasing hospitalization of COVID-19-positive patients that were exhausting healthcare system resources throughout the state. Subsequently, CSC was activated statewide on September 16th. On November 19, 2021, the Committee recommended CSC be deactivated statewide except the Panhandle Public Health District where COVID-19 case numbers and hospitalizations continued to exceed the healthcare resources available. On November 22, 2021, CSC was deactivated for all public health districts statewide, except the Panhandle Public Health District.

The following conditions exist which support deactivating CSC for the Panhandle Health District:

Department Director Dave Jeppesen convened the Committee on December 17, 2021, to review the situation at healthcare facilities for the Panhandle Public Health District.

The Committee determined that while the number of COVID-19 patients remains high and continues to stress healthcare systems, the surge is currently no longer exceeding the healthcare resources available. While the Panhandle Public Health District, along with the rest of the state public health districts, continue to closely monitor for the Omicron variant, healthcare systems in northern Idaho are able to return to contingency operations, which means they can deliver the functional equivalent of the usual standard of care, but still have an usually high number of patients.

Therefore, pursuant to IDAPA 16.02.09.400, CSC previously activated In the Panhandle Health District on September 6, 2021 is hereby deactivated for the Panhandle Public Health District, which encompasses Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, and Shoshone counties.

IT IS SO DECLARED:



DAVE JEPPESEN, DIRECTOR
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Dated: December 20, 2021