



BONNEVILLE COUNTY
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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF HEALTH - EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH

Notice is hereby given that Eastern Idaho Public Health's Board of Health will hold a special meeting via conference on Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 7:00 a.m. at its Bonneville County office, 1250 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho. The meeting room will accommodate seating for approximately 6 people. Social distancing will be required and masks must be worn. Any person who does not wish to social distance or wear a mask will not be allowed to enter and is invited to observe the meeting through live streaming. No outdoor viewing option will be available. No verbal public comments will be accepted during the meeting. Written public comment can be submitted to EIPHBoard@eiph.idaho.gov before 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 11/04/20, for consideration at the meeting.

AGENDA
Thursday, November 5, 2020
7:00 a.m.

View Live on EIPH's YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaiWpioiGwhF95yxXgM01VA

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call.....Chairman Reed
2. Approval of October 22, 2020 Board of Health Minutes (Action).....Chairman Reed
3. Breast Cancer Donation Presentation.....Savanna Nelson & Cheri Webster
4. Reports from Hospitals re: ICU and Overall Capacity.....Chairman Reed
A. Idaho Falls Community Hospital
B. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center
C. Madison Memorial Hospital
D. Steele Memorial Medical Center
5. COVID-19 Update..... Geri Rackow & James Corbett
6. Discussion and Adoption of Revised EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan (Action)
..... Geri Rackow & James Corbett
7. Rescind Order of Restriction for Custer County (Action) .....Chairman Reed

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 22, 2020**  
**7:00 a.m.**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**PRESENT:**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS**

Bryon Reed, Commissioner, Chairman  
Bill Leake, Teton County, Trustee  
Lee Miller, Commissioner  
Ken Miner, Commissioner  
Shayne Young, Commissioner  
Barbara Nelson, MD, Vice Chair  
Greg Shenton, Commissioner  
Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner  
Wayne Butts, Commissioner

**STAFF MEMBERS**

Gerri Rackow  
James Corbett  
Angy Harwood  
Cheryl O'Connell  
Amy Gamett  
Kellye Johnson  
Steve Thomas

**1. Call Board Meeting to Order**

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 7:01 a.m. This meeting is being held virtually and it is being streamed live through EIPH's YouTube channel. EIPH staff is present at the Idaho Falls office where there is also a space for the public to view in person.

**2. Approval of October 8, 2020 Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Dr. Nelson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting.

**SECOND:** Commissioner Mendenhall

**ACTION:** MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. Reports from Hospitals re: ICU and Overall Capacity**

a. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, reports a downward trend in COVID-19 patients. They currently have 10 COVID-19 patients, 3 in ICU on ventilators. Over the past weekend they had 10 COVID-19 patients with 7 in the ICU on ventilators. IFCH has purchased 2 new ventilators but will not receive them until December.

b. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports they currently have 37 COVID-19 patients with 6 in the ICU. The patients are from Bonneville, Power, Lemhi, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Bingham, Teton, and Fremont Counties as well as Wyoming and California. EIRMC is focusing on improving staffing and have hired 150 new employees in recent months; 60% of those hired are nurses. They will bring in traveling nurses to help out during the winter months. EIRMC is working with other hospitals to get some patients back to their local hospital to complete their recovery.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachel Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer, reports that Madison currently has 3 COVID-19 patients. One of the challenges is providing inpatient care to COVID -19 patients with other needs such as acute mental health issues and COVID positive mothers delivering babies.

Ms. Rackow reported that Steele Memorial Medical Center has experienced an increase in hospitalized COVID-19 patients over the past week.

**4. Presentation of Mental Health**

Dr. John Landers provided information on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health issues in the nation and then presented some strategies that the Board of Health, community leaders, organizations, and individuals can do to help mitigate suffering in our region. Dr. Landers' presentation can be viewed at [here](#).

**5. New Mental Health Resources in Idaho**

- Shannon Fox, COVID-19 Crisis Community Resource Specialist for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, provided information on the Idaho Strong Program. The program is provided through a grant from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Ms. Fox is working with individual communities to provide resources addressing mental health issues.
- Ms. Fox can be reached at [Shannon.fox@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:Shannon.fox@dhw.idaho.gov) or (986) 200-9402. For more information, visit <https://ioem.idaho.gov/covidhelpnow/>

**6. COVID-19 Update**

- Ms. Rackow reviewed current active case counts for each of the counties in the health district.
- Lemhi County has exceeded the metric of 45/10,000 population for 3 days.
- Fremont and Bonneville Counties have exceeded the metric of 10/10,000 active case counts for 1 day.
- EIPH has added the total number of individuals hospitalized in our region to our data dashboard. Previously, only the number of individuals who reside within our health district were reported.
- Idaho has received a supply of rapid antigen tests from the federal government. The state has begun distributing these tests to the local health districts for use by priority populations identified by the State's Testing Task Force. The initial test supplies are for schools (teachers, staff, and students). EIPH is coordinating with local healthcare providers in each of our counties to make these tests available for the priority groups.

**7. Discussion and Possible Revision of EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan**

- Ms. Rackow is continuing to work on some additional proposed changes to the plan; however, is not prepared to present them to the Board today.
- Changes made to the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan at the October 8, 2020 meeting have not yet been posted on the website but a press release was sent out that day outlining the changes. Until all changes are made to the plan, a final document will not be posted; however, information about the specific changes to the plan made previously will be highlighted on EIPH's website.
- Chairman Reed and other board members would like to encourage community leaders and citizens of our communities to work together to find the best solution and also take personal responsibility with mitigation efforts.

Commissioner Reed adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m. The next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

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Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman

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Geri L. Rackow, Secretary

**IN JULY 2020, IDAHO'S RESPONSE** to the COVID-19 pandemic transitioned from a statewide response to a regional response, and the following plan was developed by the Board of Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH). The plan is applicable to the following counties within EIPH's region: Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton.

As outlined in Idaho Code §39-414(2), Idaho's public health districts shall "do all things required for the preservation and protection of the public health and preventive health..." The ultimate goal of this plan is to slow the spread of COVID-19 (a new highly infectious communicable disease), to protect public health, and to ensure during the COVID-19 pandemic that healthcare capacity is maintained for ALL patients needing care—not just COVID-19 patients. Furthermore, we want to minimize the impact to our economy, our children's education, and individuals' physical and mental health as much as possible while still protecting public health. EIPH's Board of Health and Director will be responsible for the implementation of this plan.

This plan will not be in effect indefinitely; however, it is not possible to determine the exact length of time it will be needed. The risk assessment and mitigation strategies included in the plan will be in effect until a COVID-19 vaccine is readily available to the public, treatment options for COVID-19 are readily available, other mitigating factors currently not known are identified—OR until the plan is modified or rescinded by the Board of Health.

**THIS PLAN IS A FLUID DOCUMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.**

#### WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT EIPH'S COVID-19 RISK LEVELS:

- The risk levels may be applied at county, geographic, or regional level.  
**Different parts of EIPH's region may be at different risk levels.**
- In **ALL** risk levels, practice everyday preventive measures (see page 3)
- **MOVEMENT BETWEEN LEVELS**
  - Advancement to a higher risk level can occur any time the identified rates of active cases exceeds a designated threshold for three consecutive days (see page 2)
  - Reversal to lower risk level can occur when a county has been below a metric's threshold for the most recent consecutive 14-day period.
  - A county's Commissioners have the option of requesting a public health order issued by EIPH's Board of Health remain in effect until a time certain.
  - EIPH officials will be in close communication and collaboration with elected officials of local jurisdictions within the region. It is important to note that local elected officials have the authority to implement their own more restrictive measures to do what they feel is necessary to protect the public health of the residents within their jurisdictions.
- In addition to metrics determining exposure risk, public health officials will also be closely monitoring and take into consideration the following for movement to a different risk level:
  - Input from our healthcare partners prior to data being available for decision-making
  - Effectiveness of contact tracing
  - Trends in COVID-19 testing, including positivity rate and turnaround time of test results
  - Supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for healthcare providers/first responders



**COVID-19 HOTLINE • 208-522-0310 • 855-533-3160 (TOLL FREE)**

E-mail: [CovidQuestions@EIPH.Idaho.gov](mailto:CovidQuestions@EIPH.Idaho.gov)

**HOSPITALIZATIONS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THIS PLAN.** The goal of the plan’s public health mitigation measures and recommendations is to slow the spread of COVID-19 in order to *protect individuals* and to *maintain healthcare capacity* in our region. The Risk Levels are based on the number of hospitalizations that we would expect to result from the positive cases of COVID-19. EIPH continually monitors the COVID-19 hospitalization rate for our eight-county district, which is reported on the Data Dashboard on our website ([www.EIPH.Idaho.gov](http://www.EIPH.Idaho.gov)). Obviously, the higher number of cases, the more hospitalizations that will occur, putting stress on our hospitals’ ability to maintain capacity—not just physical bed capacity, but more importantly, healthcare personnel to care for the patients.

**ACTIVE CASE RATES** of COVID-19 are used to establish the Risk Levels in this plan. An active case is:

*A confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 that is currently being monitored by EIPH. A case is considered infectious during the monitoring period, which is generally 10 days from onset of COVID-19 symptoms.*

- **Confirmed Case:** A person with a positive laboratory test result for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, using a molecular amplification (PCR, NAA) technique.
- **Probable Case:**
  - ⇒ A person with a positive laboratory test result for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) using a non-molecular amplification (antigen) technique OR
  - ⇒ A person who develops symptoms after being in close contact with a confirmed or probable case without being tested using a molecular amplification (PCR, NAA) technique.

*For situational awareness, EIPH reports daily case counts of COVID-19, the number of active cases and rate by county, and much more on our website.*

## EIPH COVID-19 RISK LEVELS

(Based on Rate of Active Cases)

	MINIMAL RISK <15/10,000	MODERATE RISK 15/10,000	HIGH RISK 30/10,000	CRITICAL RISK 45/10,000
LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION	ON TRACK FOR CONTAINMENT	WIDESPREAD	ACCELERATED	TIPPING POINT
BONNEVILLE COUNTY	<180	180	360	540
CLARK COUNTY	0	case-by-case basis	case-by-case basis	case-by-case basis
CUSTER COUNTY	<6	6	13	19
FREMONT COUNTY	<20	20	40	60
JEFFERSON COUNTY	<45	45	90	135
LEMHI COUNTY	<12	12	24	36
MADISON COUNTY	<60	60	120	180
TETON COUNTY	<18	18	36	54
OTHER METRICS MONITORED	STAFFED HOSPITAL BED OCCUPANCY IS AT 100% AND SURGE CAPACITY <sup>1</sup> CANNOT BE MAINTAINED OR CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE <sup>2</sup> ARE IMPLEMENTED			

<sup>1</sup>The maximum number of patients that a hospital can safely expand to during a time of emergency.  
<sup>2</sup>Guidance to help guide ethical decision-making for how to triage medical care when it has to be rationed.  
<https://publicdocuments.dhw.idaho.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=11746&dbid=0&repo=PUBLIC-DOCUMENTS&cr=1>

REGARDLESS OF THE RISK LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE PANDEMIC, EVERYONE IS ASKED TO FOLLOW THESE EVERYDAY PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE AND MINIMIZE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN OUR COMMUNITIES:

- ✓ Stay home if you are sick
- ✓ Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- ✓ Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others outside of your immediate family/household members whenever possible
- ✓ Wear face coverings that fully cover the nose and mouth in public when physical distancing is not possible or is hard to maintain. *This is important because one can be infected with the virus and spread it to others for up to two days before symptoms begin.*
- ✓ Carefully monitor your health (refer to [EIPH's COVID-19 Decision Tree](#) for more info)
- ✓ If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, please follow recommendations from EIPH and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for isolating during your infectious period (10 days from symptom onset). If you have close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you should quarantine for 14 days from your last close contact with them.



## PUBLIC HEALTH MITIGATION MEASURES *REGARDLESS* OF LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD

**MODERATE RISK**  
COMMUNITY SPREAD = WIDESPREAD

**HIGH RISK**  
COMMUNITY SPREAD = ACCELERATED

**CRITICAL RISK**  
COMMUNITY SPREAD = TIPPING POINT

*While EIPH's mitigation measures do not change between these three risk levels, it is important for us to provide situational awareness to the public regarding the level of community spread of the virus so individuals can make informed decisions for themselves and their families.*

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet from others (outside of immediate family/household) whenever possible
- If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, follow public health recommendations for isolation to prevent the spread of the virus
- Follow the Public Health Order\* (which carries the force of law, Idaho Code 39-419) issued for your County (*please review your respective county's Order in its entirety found at [www.EIPH.Idaho.gov](http://www.EIPH.Idaho.gov)*), which includes:
  - Face coverings that fully cover the nose and mouth are required to be worn in public places when physical distancing is not possible or is hard to maintain.
  - Social gatherings and events, both public and private, are restricted to a maximum occupancy in the venue that provides for approximately 28 square feet per person based on the area patrons and gathering/event staff, participants, and/or performers will be situated for the gathering/event. This is to allow for physical distancing of attendees
- Schools should implement their School Board-approved plans for the various levels of community transmission
- Hospitals should implement their contingency plans for handling an increased volume of hospitalizations
- High-risk populations (older adults and people with underlying health conditions) and those caring for high-risk populations should take extra measures to protect themselves from the virus (see page 4)
- Consider other public health recommendations to minimize your exposure to COVID-19 (see page 4)
- EIPH will continue to work with local community leaders (elected officials, school officials, law enforcement, businesses, and other stakeholders) on enhanced mitigation strategies and education needs for their respective jurisdictions
- EIPH Board of Health may recommend/implement other measures based on specific situation(s) occurring within a respective county, a region, or the entire health district

\*In the event that multiple Public Health Orders are in effect at one time (for example, a statewide order and a local public health order), the most restrictive guidelines should be followed.

## PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC POPULATIONS/ACTIVITIES

### HIGH-RISK POPULATIONS

Individuals at higher risk of severe illness with COVID-19 include older adults and people of any age with:

- Chronic lung, heart, kidney, or liver disease or someone who smokes
- Obesity, diabetes, hypertension, or high blood pressure
- Immunocompromised conditions
- Pregnancy

In addition to always following the key preventive measures of maintaining physical distance from others, wearing a face covering, and increased hand hygiene, take extra precautions to protect yourself, especially as the level of community transmission increases.

- Limit close physical interaction with other people, especially if they are sick.
- Make sure you have an adequate supply of food, medication, and other essential items. Use curbside and delivery services to minimize close contact with others.
- Maintain social connections with your loved ones from a distance or while taking extra precautions.
- If you live alone, seek out a “buddy” who can check on you and help provide support if needed.
- Avoid large gatherings of all types and being in crowds.
- Do not postpone seeking medical care for any of your health conditions. And, if you contract COVID-19, seek appropriate medical care early.

For more information, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

### BUSINESSES

- Ensure physical distancing as much as possible between: employees; employees and customers; and customers (rearrange seating) from other groups.
- Where feasible, provide teleworking opportunities for high-risk staff or if physical distancing between staff cannot be maintained.
- Require masks of employees and customers.
- Consider special business hours for high-risk individuals.
- Provide opportunities for increased hand hygiene for employees/customers.
- Increase cleaning/sanitizing of your facility.
- Provide contactless service where possible (curbside and delivery services, payment options, etc.).
- Provide signage, announcements, and physical markings to promote physical distancing and other protective measures.
- Implement policies that encourage employees to stay home when sick.
- Work with EIPH when you have a positive case or an exposure in your business (208-533-3219).

For more information, visit: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2F](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2F)

### COVID HELP NOW LINE

This resource offers statewide support for anyone challenged by the stress associated with the global pandemic.

Call or Text 986-867-1073 or Call Toll Free 866-947-5186

[www.ioem.idaho.gov/covidhelpnow](http://www.ioem.idaho.gov/covidhelpnow)



### CONGREGATE LIVING FACILITIES

This include nursing homes, assisted living facilities, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, and other shared housing facilities:

- Closely monitor health of all staff and residents. Ensure staff who are sick **DO NOT WORK** until COVID-19 is ruled out.
- Encourage staff to follow all public health recommendations outside of work.
- Consider 14-day quarantine for new residents to the facility per CDC guidelines.
- Cohort staff and residents as much as possible.
- Ensure physical distancing occurs as much as possible.
- Consider requiring staff to wear masks at all times while working inside the building.
- Use outdoor space as much as possible.
- High-risk staff should not have close contact with residents who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19, if possible.
- When residents temporarily leave the facility, follow public health recommendations for masking and physical distancing from others to prevent any possible exposure.
- Increase testing (screening and surveillance) as much as possible, in accordance with respective regulatory authority guidelines.
- Ensure plans are in place to handle an outbreak in the facility.
- Increase communication to residents and staff regarding policies, protective measures being implemented, and contingency plans.
- As risk levels increase, consider limiting visitors to the facility as well as residents leaving the facility to prevent possible exposures to residents.

For more guidance, visit: <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/ltc/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/shared-congregate-house/guidance-shared-congregate-housing.html>

### TRAVEL

- Prior to travel, evaluate the COVID-19 risk level at your planned destination. Two good sources are: <https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>. Also, check for any travel restrictions involving your destination.
- Do not travel if you are sick.
- During your trip, follow public health recommendations of maintaining physical distance between you and others, wear a face covering, wash your hands frequently, and avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
- As community transmission of COVID-19 increases, consider minimizing non-essential travel.
- Employers may consider asking employee to quarantine for 14-days following travel to minimize risk of exposure in the workplace.

### GATHERINGS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Small gatherings of extended family members/friends are a primary source of spread of COVID-19, likely due to people feeling more comfortable in these more intimate settings and relaxing public health precautions.

- Do not attend any gathering if you are sick.
- Practice physical distancing from all individuals outside your household.
- Wear a face covering when you cannot physical distance.

**ORDER OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH  
EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH, STATE OF IDAHO**

**ORDER LIFTING RESTRICTIONS FOR CUSTER COUNTY – NOVEMBER SEPTEMBER 24, 2020**

THE DISTRICT BOARD OF EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (EIPH) HEREBY FINDS AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

Whereas the rate of active cases of COVID-19 in Custer County has fallen below the threshold of 15/10,000 for the most recent fourteen consecutive days, the conditions requiring the Order of Restriction for Custer County, which consisted of limiting social gatherings and events and requiring face coverings in public places, no longer apply within the county at this time, as determined by the Board. This action is in conformance with EIPH's COVID-19 Regional Response Plan to address the COVID-19 pandemic, adopted on July 14, 2020 and last amended on November 5, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

**The Order of Restriction, issued on September 24, 2020, pertaining to Employers, Businesses, and Individuals in Custer County, Idaho, is hereby rescinded.**

This Order shall become effective immediately, and will continue to be in effect until rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the authorized representative of the Board of Health, Geri L. Rackow, District Director.

To decrease the spread of COVID-19, the cities within Custer County may enact more stringent public health orders than those set out in this Order. This order has no effect on any existing order of any city within the county. This order has no effect on any existing order of the Governor of the State of Idaho.

It is the recommendation of Eastern Idaho Public Health that in order to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19, individuals should stay home when they are sick, wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently, maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from others outside of one's household, and wear masks or cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

Custer County and each city within must promptly provide copies of the Order as follows: (1) by posting the Order on its website, (2) by posting the Order at the county courthouse and each city hall, and (3) by providing a copy to any member of the public requesting it. The Order will also be posted on the website of Eastern Idaho Public Health.

DATED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

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Gerri L. Rackow, District Director