



Eastern Idaho Public Health

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Eastern Idaho Public Health Board Discusses COVID-19 Regional Response; Provides Opportunity for Public Input

(SE Idaho) – After Governor Little announced recently that Idaho’s COVID-19 pandemic response would change from a statewide approach to a regional approach, Eastern Idaho Public Health’s (EIPH) Administration and Board of Health have been discussing what that response would look like for our eight-county region. The Board met today to review and discuss a draft plan, which is based on color-coded risk levels defined by data metrics and associated mitigation strategies. No action was taken on the plan today, but another meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 14 at 5:00 p.m. for the Board to vote on the plan.

The ultimate goal of this plan is to ensure that during the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare capacity is maintained for all patients needing care—not just COVID patients. “While doing what is needed to protect the public’s health and our regional hospital capacity, we also want to do everything we can to minimize the impact to our economy as much as possible by keeping businesses open and getting our kids back to school this fall,” stated Bryon Reed, EIPH Board Chairman. “However, we need everyone’s support and participation to help us achieve this. Preventative measures of maintaining physical distance from others outside of your immediate family, wearing face coverings while in public when physical distancing is not possible, staying home when you’re sick, and practicing frequent handwashing will go a long way to help us collectively achieve these goals.”

EIPH’s Board of Health wanted to give the public an opportunity to view and comment on the plan prior to making its final decision. Written public comments will be accepted until noon on Tuesday, July 9, 2020. No public comment will be taken at the meeting. Comments will only be accepted from residents within our jurisdiction, which includes Bonneville, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, and Teton Counties.

The plan is available on EIPH’s website at www.EIPH.Idaho.gov. Comments can be submitted:

1. Electronically through a link on the website
2. By e-mailing them to COVIDquestions@eiph.idaho.gov (please include “Plan Comments” in the subject line)
3. By fax at (208) 525-7063

EIPH currently provides COVID-related data on our data dashboard found on our website. Moving forward, data for the metrics included in the Response Plan will be included in the dashboard as well.

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