



Eastern Idaho Public Health

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2021

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COVID Cases Rising in the Region; Public Health Asks Community Members to Implement Actions Necessary to Slow the Spread of the Virus

(Eastern Idaho) – Over the past month, COVID-19 cases have been rising again in the health district. This has caused increased hospitalizations and workload on our healthcare system. It has also caused disruptions at worksites and schools with more people needing to isolate and quarantine due to exposure. Eastern Idaho Public Health Board Chair, Bryon Reed, and Director, Geri Rackow, issued a statement to ask the community to take the actions necessary to slow the spread of the virus in the community.

“Last weekend marked the one-year anniversary of the first COVID-19 case in EIPH’s region. The ensuing year has been one of uncertainty, fear, chaos, change, disappointment, and loss culminating in December 2020 with the near implementation of Crisis Standards of Care in Idaho due to our hospitals being overwhelmed with COVID patients which jeopardized their capacity to adequately treat all patients needing hospital care. Luckily, our community and our State banded together and averted this disaster.

With the release of the COVID-19 vaccine in December and lowering cases in the region in early 2021, we were finally able to breathe a little easier as we were able to see an end to the pandemic, a light at the end of the tunnel, so to speak. Sadly, we are starting to see a surge of COVID-19 cases, primarily in Bonneville County (but also Madison, Jefferson, and Fremont Counties). We are nearing the Critical Risk Level again and our hospital system is experiencing an alarming number of admissions due to the virus. With a safe and effective vaccine available, it is heartbreaking and unnecessary to have this level of sickness and loss of life at this very late stage of the pandemic.

We, as a community, know what must be done to stop this rapid spread of the virus and it should not require a public health order. By following Eastern Idaho Public Health’s guidelines (see attachment), we can stop this sudden surge of cases. This will protect our hospital system, our local economy, and will prevent unnecessary illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths. We would like everyone to choose to be part of the solution of getting this virus more under control.

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We ask that within your own lives, as well as your spheres of influence (business/work, school, church, or community), PLEASE implement the actions necessary to stop this rapid spread of virus in our community and encourage others to do the same so we can move to the other side of this pandemic and return to the sense of normalcy we all desire. We are not there yet but it is anticipated that by mid-June, all Idaho adults wanting the COVID-19 vaccine will have an opportunity to receive it. So, by coming together for the next few months, we can finish strong and cross the finish line.

We would also ask that you share this message wide and far as it will take all of us working together to make this happen.”

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