



# Eastern Idaho Public Health

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## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### ***Preparedness exercise in Madison County to simulate anthrax scenario Local agencies to gain emergency response experience***

(SE Idaho) - In order to test Idaho's ability to respond to a potential bioterrorism incident, Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) is working with Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I), local and state emergency management officials and other emergency response partners to conduct a regional full scale exercise. The emergency preparedness exercise is set for Madison County on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

This training exercise is to prepare for a possible anthrax attack by practicing mass antibiotic distribution methods. If there should ever be an attack, EIPH and its partners will need to dispense antibiotics to all affected residents within 48 hours. Volunteers will play the part of exposed community members during the exercise, which will take place at the BYU-I Center Courts on the campus of BYU-I starting at 12:30 p.m. The exercise will run for 2.5 hours, ending at approximately 3:00 pm. If anyone is interested in volunteering and being a part of the exercise, please join us at the BYU-I Center on April 24 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Brad Clements, training specialist at EIPH, says, "We currently have a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan in place and we engage in these exercises to make sure that the plan will work in a real-life incident. If you wait until an incident actually happens to execute your plan, then it's too late and the opportunity to learn and change directions, if needed, is lost."

Exercises like these are a good way to work with the community and let them know what will be required of them if there was ever an actual incident. The exercise is designed to leave participants with a clear understanding of what to do in a specific emergency situation. Overall, this will help to keep the community as safe and healthy as possible.

State and local emergency preparedness staff is required to participate in exercises on a regular basis as part of their federal funding requirements. For additional information, please contact Mimi Taylor, Public Information Officer at EIPH, at 208-533-3155 or [mimi\\_taylor@EIPH.idaho.gov](mailto:mimi_taylor@EIPH.idaho.gov).

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