



Eastern Idaho Public Health

1250 Hollipark Drive • Idaho Falls, ID 83401 • Phone: (208) 522-0310 • www.EIPH.Idaho.gov

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2021

Contact: Mimi Taylor
Office: (208) 521-6722

COVID-19 Regional Response Plan Revised; Madison and Teton Counties Public Health Orders Rescinded on 3/18; Upcoming COVID Vaccine Priority Groups

(Eastern Idaho) – The Board of Health (BOH) at Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) met this morning, Thursday, March 4, and made changes to the COVID-19 Regional Response Plan, which was established in July 2020 and has guided the pandemic response over the past 8 months. The main revision was the removal of the provision for the BOH to issue Public Health Orders when a county hits the metric to be moved to the Moderate (yellow) Risk Level. The metric is set at 15 active cases of COVID-19 per 10,000 population. Since the Regional Response Plan is a fluid document, there is the possibility that if the situation seriously escalates in the future, Public Health Orders may need to be implemented again to slow the spread of the virus to a manageable level. The updated plan can be found on our website at www.EIPH.Idaho.gov by clicking on the box labeled “COVID-19 Information and News.”

Currently, two counties in EIPH’s region (Madison and Teton) are under Public Health Orders for the mandatory wearing of face coverings. These orders will be rescinded on Thursday, March 18. It should be noted that even though Public Health Orders are being lifted in Teton County, there are still local masking ordinances in place in the City of Driggs and the City of Victor.

Although Public Health Orders will not be enacted when a county hits the metric detailed above, counties will still be moved up and down between levels to reflect the current COVID situation in the county. COVID cases have been slowly inching up again in the region. Therefore, Bonneville, Fremont, and Jefferson Counties have been moved to the Moderate (yellow) Risk Level.

One of the main focuses of the Plan has always been education for individuals, businesses, schools, and other groups on the actions that need to be taken to slow the spread of the virus. These actions include monitoring for illness, staying home when sick, washing hands frequently or using hand sanitizer, avoiding large crowds, maintaining space (at least 6 feet) between people, and when not able to distance, wearing a mask correctly and consistently. Public Health Orders do not need to be in place for people to make choices to reduce spreading the virus. Please take personal responsibility for your health. This will not only benefit you, but your family and community, as well.

- More-

EIPH is releasing a Public Health Advisory that can be viewed on our website detailing all the strongly recommended actions people can take to keep themselves and their communities healthy.

Another important strategy to slowing the spread of the virus and getting us through the pandemic is getting vaccinated when it is your turn. Our current vaccination focus has been people age 65 and older. It was recently announced by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) that on March 15, the State will be moving on to vaccine Priority Group 2.3. This includes:

- Food and agriculture workers (including food processing workers but **NOT** food service or restaurant/fast food workers)
- USDA processing plant inspectors
- Grocery, convenience store, and food pantry workers
- Idaho National Guard if not included earlier
- Manufacturing, public transit, and U.S. Postal Service workers
- Subset of essential gas, electric, water, and telecommunications utility workers, who work indoors
- Homeless shelter residents

We are preparing now for starting to schedule appointments for Priority Group 2.3. If you are a member of one of these groups and wish to be vaccinated, please go to our website (www.EIPH.Idaho.gov) and register on our waiting list.

If you are a member of a group that is currently eligible to receive the vaccine and want to be vaccinated now, please call our office at 208-533-3223 to schedule an appointment for an upcoming clinic.

#