



STAGE 2

**STATE OF IDAHO
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
STAY HEALTHY ORDER**

December 30, 2020

BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES MAY CONTINUE OPERATIONS AT PHYSICAL LOCATIONS IN THE STATE OF IDAHO.

ALL INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES MUST ADHERE TO THE MANDATORY PORTIONS OF THE PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND SANITATION REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN SECTION 3 OF THIS ORDER.

GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, ARE PROHIBITED, WITH EXCEPTIONS FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.

PATRONS OF BARS, NIGHTCLUBS, AND RESTAURANTS MUST REMAIN SEATED.

FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED AT LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES.

PEOPLE AT INCREASED RISK FOR SEVERE ILLNESS LIVING IN THE STATE OF IDAHO ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO STAY HOME AND LIMIT THEIR MOVEMENT OUTSIDE OF THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

The Governor and Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (“Director”) hereby issue this order of isolation pursuant to Article IV, § 5 of the Idaho Constitution and Idaho Law.

The Director is authorized by Idaho Code § 56-1003(7) “to impose and enforce orders of isolation and quarantine to protect the public from the spread of infectious or communicable diseases.”

This Order is intended to be temporary and is effective as of 12:00 a.m. December 30, 2020 and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Governor and Director.

THE GOVERNOR OF IDAHO AND DIRECTOR OF THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE MAKE THE FOLLOWING FINDINGS:

The basis for this Order includes, but is not limited to, the following findings.

The virus that causes Coronavirus 2019 Disease (“COVID-19”) has resulted in a global pandemic, is present in Idaho, and has infected over 138,000 Idahoans, resulting in 1,393 deaths to date. The virus is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect public health and safety and safeguard the ability of public and private healthcare providers to handle an influx of new patients.

This Order is based on evidence of a significant increase of cases of COVID-19 within the State of Idaho; as well as, the advice and input of state epidemiologists, public health experts, and guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the White House. This order is also based on the scientific evidence and best practices regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, and evidence that the age, condition, and health of a significant portion of the population of the state places its citizens at risk for serious health complications, including death, from COVID-19.

Some individuals who contract the COVID-19 virus have no symptoms or have mild symptoms, which means they may not be aware they carry the virus. Because even people without symptoms can transmit the disease, and because evidence shows the disease is easily spread, gatherings can result in transmission of the virus.

The most recent data from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare indicates that Idaho local public health jurisdictions have reported 32.8 cases per 100,000 population; according to the CDC COVID Data Tracker, this is the 25th highest rate in the country. Idaho also has one of the highest rates of test positivity at 12.5% of tests. On average, 45 patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 5 patients with suspected COVID-19 were reported as newly admitted each day to hospitals in Idaho, straining resources. Currently, 42.6% hospitals are reporting resource stresses, 19.1% are reporting many resource limitations; and 4.3% are reporting severe constraints. In some instances, hospitals have diverted patients to other hospitals within the state and to neighboring states.

Local health districts have traced reported infections to gatherings of people, including school-related events, social gatherings, and recreational events. In the judgment of public health officials, reducing or limiting the size of these gatherings will reduce spread of the virus in communities and protect vulnerable Idahoans.

Since June 2020, there has been a significant and concerning increase in cases of COVID-19 among residents and staff at long-term care facilities in Idaho. Outbreaks often start with a staff member or a visitor and spreads to other staff members and residents. Many staff members and all residents of long-term care facilities are at a higher risk of severe complications associated with contracting COVID-19. Currently, 207 residential facilities have COVID-19 cases.

The scientific evidence shows that at this stage of the pandemic, it is necessary to slow virus transmission to protect Idaho’s vulnerable population and to prevent the healthcare system from being overwhelmed. In consultation with state and federal epidemiologists and healthcare experts, this Order is intended to protect the lives and safety of Idahoans, preserve capacity in our healthcare system and slow the spread of COVID-19 by limiting public and private gatherings, requiring patrons to remain seated at bars and restaurants, mandating masks in long-term care facilities, and requiring individuals to maintain physical distancing whenever possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE GOVERNOR OF IDAHO AND IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE DIRECTOR ORDER:

1. Gatherings.

- a. Gatherings of more than 10 people, both public and private, are prohibited. People participating in gatherings of 10 or fewer people, while permitted, must adhere to the Physical Distancing and Sanitation Requirements in Section 3.
- b. As defined by the CDC, “gathering” means “a planned or spontaneous event, indoors or outdoors, with a small number of people participating or a large number of people in attendance such as a community event or gathering, concert, festival, conference, parade, wedding, or sporting event.”
- c. Bars, restaurants, and nightclubs.
 - i. All patrons must remain seated while consuming food or drink or when otherwise remaining on the premises, except for when entering, exiting, or using the restroom;
 - ii. Seating must be arranged and maintained so that tables are spaced at least six feet apart; and
 - iii. Nightclubs may continue to operate as a bar but must comply with the requirements of this Section and this Order.
- d. Exemptions. The following are exempt from Section 1(a) of this Order:
 - i. Gatherings for political expression and religious activities are not subject to the provisions of this Section; provided, however, that gatherings for purposes of political expression and religious activities must adhere to the Physical Distancing and Sanitation Requirements in Section 3 of this Order;
 - ii. Educational activities. The term “educational activities” means activities involving students taught by an educator in a school or equivalent setting;

- iii. Gatherings of more than 10 members of the same household. “Household” is defined as an individual or a group of individuals who reside in the same residence;
- iv. Gatherings of participants necessary for extra-curricular activities, including athletics, practice, matches, performances and games may continue. Participants necessary for the extra-curricular activity to occur include, but are not limited to, players, instructors, coaches, officials, and personnel to broadcast the activity, but do not include non-participants such as spectators; and
- v. Attendance by non-participants at extra-curricular activities if the activity complies with a plan administered and enforced by the Idaho State Board of Education. Plans can be found at <https://rebound.idaho.gov/>.

2. Face Coverings at Long-Term Care Facilities.

- a. Anyone who enters a long-term care facility or campus who is not a resident must wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth at all times.
- b. Exemptions. This requirement does not apply to:
 - i. Children under the age of 5;
 - ii. Any person while consuming food or drink;
 - iii. Any person with a diagnosed medical condition, mental health condition, or disability which prevents wearing a face covering; or
 - iv. Any person who is deaf or hard of hearing for purposes of communication, or any person communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

3. Physical Distancing and Sanitation Requirements.

- a. Individuals not residing within the same household must maintain at least six-foot physical distancing from other individuals whenever possible.
- b. Individuals should:
 - i. Wash hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds as frequently as possible or use hand sanitizer;
 - ii. Cover coughs or sneezes (into the sleeve or elbow, not hands);
 - iii. Regularly clean high-touch surfaces and not shake hands;

- iv. Stay home if sick;
 - v. Wear face coverings while in public, especially when six-foot distancing is not always possible (e.g., inside businesses); and
 - vi. Follow additional protocols established in the Governor’s Guidelines for Opening up Idaho published at <https://rebound.idaho.gov/>.
- c. Employers must:
- i. Develop and implement measures to ensure employees and customers maintain at least six-foot physical distancing from other individuals whenever possible;
 - ii. Provide adequate sanitation and personal hygiene for employees, vendors, and patrons; and
 - iii. Frequently disinfect commonly touched and high-traffic areas and regularly clean those areas.
- d. Employers should:
- i. Identify how personal use items such as masks, face coverings, and gloves may be required by employees, vendors, and/or patrons;
 - ii. Provide services while limiting close interactions with patrons;
 - iii. Identify strategies for addressing ill employees, which should include requiring COVID-19 positive employees to stay at home while infectious, and may include keeping employees who were directly exposed to the COVID-19 positive employee away from the workplace, and the closure of the business until the location can be properly disinfected;
 - iv. On a case-by-case basis, include other practices appropriate for specific types of businesses such as telework where appropriate, screening of employees for illness and exposures upon work entry, requiring non-cash transactions, etc.; and
 - v. Implement additional protocols established in the Governor’s Guidelines for Opening up Idaho and the business-specific protocols published at <https://rebound.idaho.gov/>.
4. People at increased risk for severe illness should self-isolate. Because of the risk of the rapid spread of the virus, and the need to protect all citizens of the State of Idaho, this Order strongly encourages individuals at increased risk anywhere in Idaho to stay at home. Members of households with residents that are at increased risk should be aware that by

returning to work or other environments where distancing is not always possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to protect and isolate from residents at increased risk for severe illness.

People who are at higher risk for severe illness are defined by the CDC. Additional information is located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>

5. The violation of any mandatory provision of this Order constitutes an imminent threat to public health. Violation of or failure to comply with a mandatory provision of this Order may constitute a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both pursuant to Idaho Code § 56-1003(7)(c). The Governor and Director requests that the Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police in the State of Idaho, and Idaho State Police educate the public about this Order and ensure compliance with this Order.
6. This Order is effective as of December 30, 2020 at 12:00 a.m. and will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Governor and Director.
7. The Stay Healthy Order dated November 14, 2020 is hereby rescinded as of 12:00 a.m. on December 30, 2020.
8. To decrease the spread of COVID-19, the cities, counties, public health districts, school districts, and institutions of higher education within the State of Idaho may enact more stringent public health orders than those set out in this Order. Health orders issued by cities, counties, public health districts, school districts, or institutions of higher education that are more stringent than this Order remain valid.
9. Each county and each city must promptly provide copies of the Order as follows: (1) by posting the Order on its website, (2) by posting the Order at each 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 the Department of Health and Welfare.
10. If any provision of this Order or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the Order, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Order are severable.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR
STATE OF IDAHO

Dated: December 30, 2020



DAVE JEPPESEN, DIRECTOR
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND WELFARE

Dated: December 30, 2020