



GUIDANCE FOR GOVERNOR BRAD LITTLE'S STATEWIDE STAY-HOME ORDER

Updated March 25, 2020

Self-isolate

ALL residents of Idaho must self-isolate and stay and work from home as much as possible, unless you work in healthcare, public safety or an identified "essential business" as defined in order.

Residents can leave homes to obtain or provide essential services.

People at higher risk (over 65 and/or health-compromised) should avoid leaving their homes.

Employers that do not provide essential services as defined in order must take all steps necessary for employees to work remotely from home.

"Essential" facilities & services open

Grocery stores, healthcare facilities, gas stations, pharmacies, essential state and local government functions, laundromats/laundry services, financial institutions, residential and home-based care, veterinary services, hardware stores, limited child care for essential workers, infrastructure, and other businesses essential to the safety and well-being of the residents as defined in the order remain open. Restaurants open but only for drive-thru, carry-out, or delivery.

"Non-essential" facilities & services closed

Includes indoor gyms, recreational facilities, nightclubs, bars, entertainment venues, convention centers, hair and nail salons, public events and gatherings, dine-in restaurants (drive-thru, carry-out, delivery to continue), and other facilities and services not included in "essential" businesses as defined in order.

Limit public transit

Only to provide or obtain essential services.

Limit travel

All non-essential travel must cease.

No gatherings

Limit all non-essential gatherings of any number of individuals outside the household.

Outdoor activity OK

Outdoor activity is not prohibited but residents are encouraged to keep distance of 6-feet from others not in their household.

Practice good hygiene

Wash hands, clean high touch surfaces, cover coughs and sneezes, and do not shake hands.

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated April 2, 2020

****Information on the Statewide Stay-Home Order available here.** (<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/idaho-resources/>)**

What is the most important thing for Idahoans to do at this time?

- Be aware of the rapidly changing nature of the pandemic and do your part to stay current on the latest recommendations from public health officials. Frequently check this website as well as the websites for the **local public health districts** (<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/contact/>) for the latest Idaho-specific information and follow the recommendations of local officials to the best of your ability.
- Help stop the spread of germs by washing your hands frequently, avoiding touching your face when out in public, trying to keep a distance of at least 6 feet from people who appear to have respiratory illness, covering your cough or sneeze if you are sick, and staying home when you are sick.
- Be aware that there are other, common human coronaviruses that cause respiratory disease. These are not the same virus that causes COVID-19.
- Follow public health travel recommendations to avoid unnecessary risk; these are available on the CDC web site **here** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>).
- It is currently flu and respiratory disease season; we recommend getting a flu vaccine to stay as healthy as possible.
- If you or someone you know may have been exposed to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, call your medical provider to determine next steps.

Idahoans are encouraged to:

- Do not visit nursing homes, retirement homes, or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance, but still to find ways to connect with loved ones in these facilities, such as phone, text, Facetime, and others
- Avoid discretionary travel
- Avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people
- Continue to practice good hygiene
- Work from home whenever possible – UNLESS you work in a critical infrastructure industry, such as healthcare, medicine and food supply
- Take advantage of the many drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options for food. Businesses are stepping up to make these options even more available than before, in order to serve customers and keep people working.

Should I get tested for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

It is still cold and flu season, and you do not need to seek medical attention for a mild respiratory illness such as a cold. However, if you have had close contact with a person with known novel coronavirus or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread and you develop fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider and ask for instructions about how to seek care.

At this time, the CDC doesn't recommend testing of people who do not have symptoms. Because of the limited number of tests, there is a need to preserve them for the sickest and those with the highest risk of infection.

What is the process for testing novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Testing for the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is being done on a patient-by-patient basis. Epidemiologists at the state and at local public health districts are in consultation with healthcare providers and will facilitate testing at the state lab for high-risk patients. Since influenza is still widely circulating and has similar symptoms, rapid flu tests will generally be recommended to rule out flu before proceeding with coronavirus testing.

The state lab is receiving samples Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. until further notice, so tests can be run as quickly and efficiently as possible.

In addition, some private regional labs are also accepting Idaho samples for testing. There may be a cost associated with this testing. () Labs will report their results to the state, and those numbers will be posted on this website each day. It is normal for test results to take 2-5 days to be delivered to the healthcare provider who ordered the testing.

What are the symptoms of novel coronavirus (COVID-19)? How long do they take to appear after exposure?

Experts believe symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath and may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

What is the likelihood that I, or someone in my family, could be exposed to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

It's important to remember that most people (currently thought to be about 80 percent) infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 will have mild illness. A much smaller group of people – mostly those who are older and are medically fragile or have underlying health conditions — may have more severe illness.

When will a vaccine be available?

This will be a brand-new vaccine. Currently, federal health officials estimate that it will be about a year before a vaccine is available.

How should households with confirmed coronavirus cases handle household waste?

In order to protect sanitation workers, households with residents infected or suspected to be infected with COVID-19 should carefully and tightly enclose any waste that may be contaminated with the virus in appropriate bags, consider double-bagging the waste, and ensure that curbside containers are not overfilled so the lids can close completely. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling any COVID-19 waste. More information is available on the Idaho DEQ web site [here](https://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/solid-waste/covid-19-wastes/) (<https://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/solid-waste/covid-19-wastes/>).

Can my dog or cat become sick with COVID-19?

The CDC has not received any reports about pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19. Nevertheless, it is recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known. If no one else can care for your pet while you are sick, you should wash your hands before and after you interact with your animal and wear a facemask. For more information [click here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>).

What is Idaho doing to monitor the coronavirus risk?

Idaho Public Health officials are monitoring the rapidly changing novel coronavirus situation very closely, domestically and internationally. We are working with the Governor's Office and other state agencies including the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, local public health districts, and healthcare providers around the state, as well as CDC and other states and are working to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Additionally, Gov. Brad Little has launched a new **Coronavirus Working Group** (<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/governors-working-group/>) dedicated to supporting Idaho's public health agencies and increasing coordination and communication around the multiple aspects of the planning and response effort.

This website is the best source for Idaho-specific information about the novel coronavirus response.

If you have additional questions, please visit the **Contact Us** (<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/contact/>) page of this website.