

NEWS

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2020

Central District Health's Board Issues COVID-19 Public Health Advisory for Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties

Advisory now in effect

Central District Health, Idaho — At their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, the Central District Health Board of Health unanimously approved a COVID-19 [Public Health Advisory](#) for the entire four-county jurisdiction of Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties. The Advisory, which took effect immediately, is prompted by the continued surge in case counts, increasing demands on our healthcare system, and a backlog of cases that have required public health investigators and contact tracers to prioritize incoming case work.

The Public Health Advisory includes strong recommendations for individuals and businesses around personal behaviors and business operations. It aims to support hospitals so they can continue providing appropriate levels of care for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients, and to protect the health of citizens. Unlike public health orders, a health advisory is not a mandate, but instead, an advisement to the community regarding a significant public health risk, and includes associated strong recommendations for action. The public health orders issued for [Ada County](#), and mask order for [Valley County](#), remain in place.

The Advisory includes the following health and safety measures:

Individuals

- Wear a face covering at all times around anyone who is not a member of your household when physical distancing of at least 6 feet cannot be maintained. The only exceptions are for children younger than age 2, people who have trouble breathing, people who cannot remove the mask without assistance, or people who are obtaining a service involving the nose, face, or head for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service.
 - In Ada and Valley Counties, current public health orders apply and require the wearing of masks/face coverings under the scenarios outlined in the section above.

- Work from home.
- Minimize non-essential travel.
- Suspend visits to congregate living facilities.
- Avoid social gatherings, including among family members who do not live in your household.
 - In Ada County, the current public health order requires social gathering sizes to be limited to 10 or fewer people; and other gatherings to 50 people or fewer.
 - The current statewide order limits both public and private gathering sizes to 10 or fewer.
- Anyone age 65 and older, *or* who smokes, *or* with a health condition that puts them at risk for severe outcomes, avoid close contact with anyone other than immediate household members except for necessary services, such as accessing healthcare.
 - Per the [CDC](#), health conditions that put a person at high risk include: Chronic kidney disease, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies, Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant, Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²), Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²), Pregnancy, Sickle cell disease and Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Outings/Activities/Places of Business

- Businesses implement delivery/curb-side services.
- Places of worship implement virtual services.
- Discontinue youth and adult sports/activities in which physical distancing is not possible.
- Discontinue school extracurricular activities of all types in which physical distancing cannot be maintained AND where physical distancing can be maintained but the activity requires increased breathing, such as choir and band.
- Bars, restaurants, breweries/taprooms/wineries/distilleries – takeout/carryout only. Close at 10 pm.
- Gyms and other fitness or group exercise facilities/studios (e.g., spin, dance, yoga, pilates, gymnastics) limit capacity to not more than 50%. Class instructors maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from participants at all times.

The Advisory can be viewed in full on the CDH website at:

https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/pdfs/boardofhealth/Orders/COVID-public-health-advisory_11-17-2020.pdf

The CDH Board of Health agreed to keep the Advisory in place until a sustained two-week decline in cases is seen within CDH's jurisdiction and a two-week case rate of less than 30 cases per 100,000 people, per day, occurs. If one of the three healthcare systems within CDH's jurisdiction implements crisis standards of care, which means they must prioritize their delivery of care, the Advisory will become a public health order and may include additional restrictions.

The CDH Board of Health meets for regular meetings weekly to discuss and address COVID-19 related developments in its jurisdiction. Meetings are streamed live on CDH's YouTube page and

are also available for viewing following the meetings. The Board voted to cancel its November 24, 2020 meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 5:15 pm. The Board will move its weekly meetings back to the 5:15 pm start time. Board meeting notices, agendas, and information on written public comment opportunities are available on the Board of Health Meetings page at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/about-boardofhealth-meetings.php>.

Additional COVID-19 Information

The CDH COVID-19 call center is available to answer questions from the public related to COVID-19 Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The call center may be closed or operate with limited hours on CDH-observed holidays. Call 208-321-2222.

CDH maintains a number of COVID-19 web pages which can be accessed at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid>.

To view CDH's Safer Holiday Celebration recommendations and guidance, visit <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus-resources.php> and view the Holidays | Events | Gatherings section.

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