

NEWS

April 29, 2021

Media partners: CDH will offer media availability via WebEx on *Thursday, April 29 from 11 am to 11:30 am.* Access the WebEx at <https://cdhd.webex.com/cdhd/j.php?MTID=mcc4f0e47fe79e611351347bf81690884>.

For those unable to attend, the session will be recorded and made available upon request by email to cmyron@cdh.idaho.gov.

Central District Health updates public health advisory for Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties; reinforces need for ongoing health and safety measures

Brazil variant identified in Elmore County resident who had COVID-19 in March

CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH — When Central District Health (CDH) updated its four-county Public Health Advisory on February 19, 2021, new criteria were set for the advisory's duration. The two pieces of criteria focused on protecting the most vulnerable community members (those 65 years and older) by allowing them time to receive protection from the COVID-19 vaccine, and meeting a two-week average daily case rate of less than 30 cases per 100,000 population.

With the criteria met, CDH has updated its public health advisory. The advisory, effective immediately in Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties, includes more concise language around wearing face coverings indoors and outdoors, and considerations for gatherings. Rather than assign specific gathering size numbers, the advisory reminds people that large gatherings can prove to be higher risk for COVID-19 exposure and to follow local and state orders or guidance for gathering size limitations and recommendations. View the updated advisory at cdh.idaho.gov/covid-advisory.

"We want to be responsive to the current realities of the virus as we navigate this new phase with vaccine in the picture. We are encouraged by those choosing to become vaccinated and the positive impact it's having in keeping case counts at manageable levels in recent weeks and months," said Russ Duke, District Director for Central District Health. "Though we have updated the advisory we want to remind people that this virus continues to impact our community members every day. Health and safety practices like masking and physical distancing have been critical in getting us to where we are today and we need to continue to use these tools, along with vaccine, to our advantage," added Duke.

Public health advisories are issued to address a public health threat and provide guidance and recommendations for the public to follow to protect their health and safety. Advisories are under the discretion of local public health district directors. CDH will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 impacts across Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties, and issue relevant health and safety guidance.

Safety and personal responsibility urged in new spring and summer gathering guidance

With spring activities in full swing, and summer coming soon, CDH has issued new guidance for safer spring and summer gatherings and activities. The guidance outlines factors that can increase a person's chances of exposure in group settings and offers recommendations for anyone planning to host or attend a gathering. To read CDH's Safer Spring and Summer Gatherings Guidance, visit cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus-resources.

As part of the ongoing state guidance from Governor Little and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, [Stage 3 Stay Healthy Guidelines](#) recommend that people limit gathering sizes to 50 or less, wear face coverings, practice sanitation measures, among other outlined practices. Any gathering that will have more than 50 people in attendance in Idaho should submit a large gathering/event attestation form to their local public health district to share their safety plan to help protect attendees.

In [Boise City](#), where a public health order remains in place, any event that will be held in Boise City limits with more than 50 people must fill out a gathering plan form through CDH. Safety plans are reviewed by CDH staff who make recommendations to Boise City for event approval.

The large gathering attestation form and the Boise City event form are available at cdh.idaho.gov/covid-forms.

Elmore County continues with high case counts and first Brazil (P. 1) variant confirmed in an Idaho resident

CDH disease investigators continue to keep a close eye on Elmore County, which has seen an uptick in cases since late March. With no identified illness clusters or transmission sources, disease investigators believe the increase in cases is related to community transmission, which means people are getting the virus without having known contact to a person infected with the virus. Community transmission means that people may become exposed in any setting.

Recently, the P. 1 strain, known as the Brazil variant, was confirmed in a clinic lab sample from an Elmore County resident. The woman, who is under the age of 40, was infected in March and was not hospitalized. She did not report having recently traveled. While the Brazil variant was detected in Boise area wastewater among samples submitted from March, this is the first laboratory-confirmed case of the Brazil variant in Idaho.

To slow the spread of COVID-19 in Idaho, please continue to:

- Choose to get vaccinated for COVID-19
- [Wear face coverings](#)
- Keep at least six feet between you and others
- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces and objects regularly

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Information Resources

- Call Center: 208-321-2222 – Open M-F, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Vaccine webpage: [cdh.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine](https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine)
- Enrolled vaccine provider list:
<https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/pdfs/cd/Coronavirus/Resource%20Docs/vaccine/enrolled-COVID19-vaccine-providers.pdf>

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