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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State of Idaho Announces first Confirmed Case of COVID-19**

**BOISE** – With Idaho Governor Brad Little’s announcement today that Idaho now has a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus COVID-19, officials with Ada County, Canyon County, Central District Health, Southwest District Health and our local and state partner agencies want to emphasize that our collective approach in response has not changed.

Public health officials felt it was just a matter of time until Idaho had a confirmed case of COVID-19.

The news that the confirmed case is in Ada County was not a surprise since the Treasure Valley is the population hub of Idaho.

The good news is that the woman who tested positive for COVID-19 did not need hospitalization and is recovering at her Ada County residence. It appears the woman contracted the virus at a conference in New York City and not by community spread here in Idaho.

Epidemiologists with Central District Health are working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to determine reasonable risk criteria for locations the woman visited after her return to Idaho, and to identify any close contacts of hers who were possibly exposed. If other people are found to have possibly been exposed, health officials will provide guidance to them and monitor them closely for symptoms.

We would like to remind our residents that the best tactics to fight back against the possible spread of the coronavirus remain the same:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid touching your face when out in public if possible.
- Try to keep a distance of six feet or more from people who appear to have a respiratory illness.
- Cover up sneezes or coughs in the crook of your arm instead of your hands.
- Stay home if you are sick.

- If you are feeling sick, have a fever, and have concerns you may be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19, please call your health provider and tell them what is going on. Do not go directly to your health provider, as you will not be able to get a test that way.

The governments of Ada and Canyon counties are working in a multi-agency coordination group on preparedness and potential response needs regarding COVID-19. The group will continue to work to determine best practices, strategies, and identify resource needs for our community in the weeks to come.

Central District Health — which serves Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley counties — opened a call center earlier this month for people who have questions about COVID-19. The call center can be reached at **(208) 321-2222**

Southwest District Health — which serves Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington counties — also has a call center set up at **(208) 455-5411**.

For more information on COVID-19 and timely updates, please visit:

<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov> [[coronavirus.idaho.gov](https://coronavirus.idaho.gov)]

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