



Public Health

Idaho North Central District



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: March 25, 2020

HEADLINE: First Positive Case of Novel Coronavirus in Idaho County

LEWISTON, IDAHO –Public Health – Idaho North Central District (PH-INCD) has confirmed the first positive case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in an adult in their 70s in Idaho County. This is the second confirmed case of COVID-19 in north central Idaho.

The investigation into this new case is in the preliminary stages. The patient’s healthcare provider acted appropriately ruling out influenza, discussing exposure risk, and appropriately determining that a COVID-19 test was necessary. The patient remains hospitalized.

Epidemiologists with PH-INCD will work to determine reasonable risk criteria for locations visited by this patient and any close contacts of that individual who were possibly exposed. If other people are found to have possibly been exposed, public health officials will provide guidance to them and will monitor them closely for symptoms.

Additional case-specific information about this individual is confidential and will not be released.

Protecting and preserving the health and safety of our residents is at the very core of what we do. We will continue to do everything we can to make sure you have the education and information you need,” said Carol Moehrle, Director. These actions include:

- Avoid non-essential travel if possible.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs using a disinfecting solution.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.

Per the Governor Little’s press conference, there is now a statewide Stay at Home Order for the next 21 days. For details on this order please visit <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/>

It is currently flu and respiratory illness season, and flu activity is still high and expected to continue for a number of weeks. Public health officials recommend taking everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. In order to slow the spread of the virus, the general public should refer to the updated guidance on mass gatherings. Please visit www.cdc.gov for additional information on mass gatherings.

For more information about the novel coronavirus please visit www.idahopublichealth.com or <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/> or call our Public Health Hotline at 1-866-736-6632.