



More Idaho counties with cases

Yesterday, Southeastern Idaho Public Health (District 6) **confirmed** the first COVID-19 case in Franklin County as well as the first case of community transmission in Power County. For May 28, eight of the 38 new confirmed and probable cases statewide were in this district. As of this morning, COVID-19 cases have been reported in **34 of Idaho's 44 counties**.

Reimbursement & Policy

Health decisions during the pandemic

This week, the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) released results from a mid-May poll assessing the impacts on health and health decisions during this pandemic. Key takeaways include:

- Nearly half of surveyed adults (48%) say someone in their household has postponed or skipped medical care. Of those who delayed care, more than two-thirds (68%) expect to get that care in the next three months.
- The stress and uncertainty being experienced led to four in ten respondents (39%) saying that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health, including 12% indicating it has had a major impact. This measure has improved since the April poll where 45% reported a negative impact.
- As more individuals have turned or anticipate turning to Medicaid for coverage, a majority of Democrats (85%), Independents (73%), and Republicans (62%) oppose their state government decreasing spending on Medicaid.

For more information, please see:

- [Polling summary](#)
- [Polling details, graphics and methodology](#)

Resources & Equipment

Surge model updated with new parameters

If your hospital or hospital system is using the **COVID-19 Surge Tool** or other in-house mathematical modeling to assess resource needs or help evaluate the potential effects of different community mitigation strategies (e.g., social distancing), you will be interested in **five COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios** developed by CDC and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

Each scenario is based on a set of numerical values for biological and epidemiological characteristics of COVID-19, which are used as inputs in models. These values—called parameter values—will be updated and augmented over time, as more is learned about the epidemiology of COVID-19. Parameter values that vary across the five COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios include measures of viral transmissibility, disease severity, and pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic disease transmission.

Scenarios 1 through 4 are based on parameter values that represent the lower and upper bounds of disease severity and viral transmissibility (moderate to very high). The parameter values used in these scenarios are likely to change as we obtain additional data about the upper and lower bounds of disease severity and the transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Scenario 5 represents a current best estimate about viral transmission and disease severity in the United States, with the same caveat: that the parameter values will change as more data become available.

Additional parameter values common to the five COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios include seven measures of healthcare usage, which are included to assist assessment of resource needs over time. Some of the parameter estimates differ from inputs used earlier in the pandemic. For example, the estimate of the percent of infections that are asymptomatic is 35% in the “current best estimate” scenario, which is higher than initial estimates.

Advisory ~ Idaho Bureau of Laboratories

Today, the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) issued a safety advisory for PrimeStore MTM Media. IBL has been receiving weekly allocations of swabs and transport media from FEMA and are sending weekly shipments of these materials to Idaho's seven public health districts for distribution. Recently they have shipped PrimeStore MTM transport media, which can be used with most test systems. IBL is notifying all labs to not use MTM media with Hologic test systems or any other methods that require the use of bleach (sodium hypochlorite) solutions. PrimeStore MTM transport media contains guanidine thiocyanate which produces a dangerous chemical reaction releasing cyanide gas when exposed to bleach (sodium hypochlorite). Please advise staff appropriately should you receive this transport media in your laboratory.

Guidance for the new normal

This week, the CDC has updated guidance for many areas, some of which might be helpful to share within your hospital and community. A few of the latest updates include:

- [Considerations for Restaurants and Bars](#)
- [COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#)
- [Households Living in Close Quarters](#)
- [Cleaning And Disinfecting Your Home: Everyday Steps and Extra Steps When Someone Is Sick](#)
- [Guidance for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians](#)

Quality & Patient Safety

Clinical management guidance

The World Health Organization (WHO) has provided updated **guidance for clinicians caring for COVID-19 patients** from screening through discharge. They have recently updated the guidance to address the needs of front-line clinical staff as well as expanding it to address patients with different levels of disease severity. Several new sections have been added, including:

- COVID-19 care pathway;
- treatment of acute and chronic infections;
- management of neurological and mental manifestations;
- rehabilitation; and
- palliative care.

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