



Governor takes steps to reduce unemployment

Today, Governor Little announced an economic boost for unemployed workers to help Idaho continue rebounding. One-time return to work bonuses of \$1,500 for full-time and \$750 for part-time employees will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis beginning June 15.

The Governor has set aside \$100 million from the federal relief funds sent to Idaho for this program, which is estimated to help about 70,000 of Idaho's unemployed. The bonuses will be given after workers return to work.

"A strong economic rebound cannot occur without workers returning to a job, and the new Return to Work cash bonuses incentivize our workforce to get back to work safely. Like other states, Idaho went from record employment to record unemployment levels in a matter of weeks. Our hearts go out to those who lost jobs or income due to the global pandemic," Governor Little said.

More than 60% of Americans who are out of work are earning more with the enhanced unemployment benefits than their normal wages, Governor Little noted. Idaho's economy can't fully rebound without those workers contributing to Idaho's economy.

The bonuses do not take away from either the regular or enhanced unemployment benefits. Those who apply and qualify for the bonuses would also receive the unemployment funds for the weeks they were out of work.

Governor Little also noted that unemployment rates are decreasing throughout the state, but different communities are experiencing differing results. Manufacturing and construction are building steam but the hospitality sector continues to be especially hard hit.

Applications and eligibility requirement for the Return to Work bonuses are expected to be available June 15 at [Idaho Rebounds](#).

Resources & Equipment

Extended mask use study

Frontline health care workers are at high risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2. Personal protective equipment (PPE), including N95 respirators, is essential for prevention of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that health care workers dispose of N95s after a single patient encounter. However, it recommends N95 extended use (wearing the same N95 for multiple patient encounters) and limited reuse (storing an N95 between encounters for use over multiple encounters) during critical PPE shortages.



A study was performed at the University of California, San Francisco emergency department to evaluate reuse and extended use of N95 masks. This fills a gap in knowledge because previous studies were conducted in labs, not clinical environments. They evaluated N95 fit test failure using 2 common types of masks, dome-shaped (left) and duckbill (right).

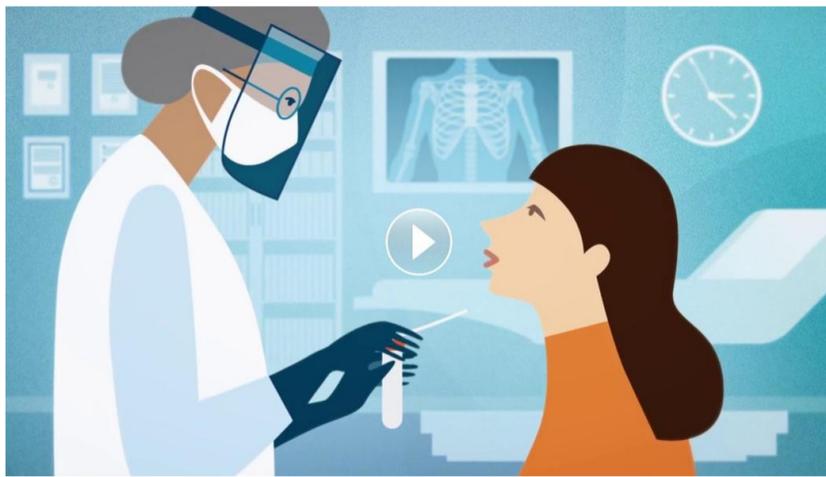
Dome-shaped N95s were used by 51 of 68 (75.0%) participants; 17 of 68 (25.0%) used duckbill N95s. Duckbill N95s had a high failure rate. 12 of 17 (70.6%) duckbill masks failed, compared with 14 of 51 (27.5%) dome-shaped masks. Failure of dome-shaped masks was associated with increased use, including increased number of shifts worn, increased donnings/doffings, and increased hours worn. This study was designed to detect mask failure based on qualitative fit testing. Failed fit tests may not necessarily result in increased rates of infection. Based on these data, the study authors concluded that "health systems should closely evaluate N95 fit during extended use or reuse and limit duckbill mask use if alternatives are available."

Cases, deaths for long-term care facilities published

Today, the Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) announced that information regarding long-term care facilities with COVID-19 cases are being published on the state's [coronavirus website](#).

Beginning today, and updated weekly, aggregated case and death numbers associated with facilities is being publicly reported. The report divides facilities between resolved and ongoing outbreaks.

Idaho has about 400 long-term care facilities, which include skilled nursing homes, assisted living/memory care, and intermediate care facilities. Currently, ten facilities are showing ongoing outbreaks.



With increasing testing availability and a variety of testing options, the Food and Drug Administration has offered this video to help people understand what is available.

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