



## COVID-19 Report to Members ~ February 2, 2021

Reports are sent on Mondays and Thursdays, unless there's breaking news.

### Governor moves Idaho to Stage 3

Today, Governor Little announced that Idaho will move to [Stage 3 of the Stay Healthy Guidelines](#). The move results from weeks of declining cases and hospitalizations. While hospitals across the state still report some resource stresses, most are operating closer to normal in terms of patient load and staffing.

Idaho's average daily case rate per capita rate is currently 40th in the nation. However, State Epidemiologist Christine Hahn noted, "now is not the time to throw the masks away" with variants of the virus emerging in many of our surrounding states.

"When we moved back to Stage 2 in November, case counts were spiking and hospitals were bracing for the worst. Today, thanks to our collective good efforts, those case counts are much lower and trending downward. Idaho now has one of the lowest rates of spread in the nation," Governor Little said. "However, moving forward to Stage 3 is not a signal to let up on our collective good efforts. Idaho has the strongest economy in the nation and the most financially solvent state budget. Let's keep it that way. We must stay vigilant."

Under Stage 3, Idahoans are still encouraged to keep up mitigation efforts and some limitations are still in place:

- Gatherings should be limited to 50 or fewer people. This does not apply to political and religious expression, educational activities, and health care related events such as COVID-19 testing or vaccination events. It does not apply to youth sporting events, as long as organizers comply with spectator plans administered by the Idaho State Board of Education.
- Face coverings are strongly recommended and required in long-term care facilities.
- Bars, restaurants, and nightclubs should continue to operate with seating only.
- Everyone, including businesses, should follow physical distancing and sanitation recommendations.
- Large events, such as trade shows, weddings, and sporting venues with more than 50 people, may receive an exemption if the organizer submits an attestation to the local public health district confirming the event will follow necessary physical distancing and hygiene protocols as outlined in their safe operations plan.

For more information, view the [Stages of Reopening](#).

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