



COVID-19 Report to Members ~ November 22, 2021

Reports are sent on Tuesdays, unless there's breaking news.

CSC Deactivated

This morning, IDHW Director Dave Jeppesen announced the deactivation of Crisis Standards of Care for all but the Panhandle Health District. The five northern counties – Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah and Shoshone – will remain in CSC for the time being as case counts remain high and bed availability at hospitals continues to be stressed.

This good news comes with words of caution as many hospitals are still operating in contingency standards due to staffing strains and hospitalized COVID patients.

CSC was activated in the northern part of the state on September 6, then for the entire state on September 15. For more than two months, hospitals across the state worked tirelessly to load-level patients between facilities to make sure everyone who needed care had a bed. Many hospitals added ICU and med/surge beds in non-traditional spaces, while nearly all others staffed up to their fully licensed bed capacity. That high level of cooperation along with the support of IDHW, the Idaho National Guard, and others helped assure that no hospital had to face the dire decision of which patient would receive treatments.

As St. Luke's physician Dr. Jim Souza pointed out on today's IDHW [media briefing](#), hospitals and healthcare workers are not claiming this as "mission accomplished". The situation remains volatile as another surge, as we've seen around the country and across the globe, may be heading our way. He encouraged everyone to reflect on what we've learned.

Healthcare workers now face the challenges of backlogged and delayed procedures as capacity begins to open up to allow for surgeries, treatments and other procedures. Just as critical will be addressing the strain and trauma the past nearly two years have had on staff and how to continue to address their needs.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and immeasurable gratitude for all that's been done to save thousands of Idahoans. The compassion, commitment, and drive shown by our healthcare workers and partners is a treasured gift and a site to behold. For this holiday week, know that you top our list of what we're thankful for.

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