

Public Health Advisory for Central District Health's Jurisdiction: Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties

Issued April 29, 2021

This advisory includes recommendations for the communities served by Central District Health (CDH) with actions to take to help reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. **It is not a public health order and does not replace or supersede orders in place or enacted by a city, county, state, or federal government.** This advisory is issued by the District Director of CDH, Russell Duke; not by the CDH Board of Health. It is a replacement for the COVID-19 advisory issued on February 19, 2021, and is subject to change based on changing circumstances.

Communities are encouraged to follow situational guidance as it is published by CDH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background

CDH's public health advisory, issued February 19, 2021, established specific criteria for the advisory's duration. Criteria, which were dependent on one another, included that the 65 years and older population have the opportunity to receive both doses of COVID-19 vaccine, plus two weeks to achieve full protection and that the districtwide two-week average daily case rate remains less than 30 cases per 100,000 population. As of late January 2021, the target case rate was met. As of April 29, 2021, most people 65 years and older have had the opportunity to become fully vaccinated.

With the previous advisory's criteria met, and with vaccine in adequate supply and available to all Idahoans 16 years and older, CDH recognizes the need to update the public health advisory. The updated advisory seeks to offer continued caution for Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties, and provide ongoing guidance to help protect residents' health and safety amidst the ongoing and changing COVID-19 pandemic.

Masks / Face Coverings

Regardless of a person's COVID-19 vaccine status, consistently and [properly](#) wearing a face covering in public remains an effective, low-to-no cost way to protect those outside of your household and also provides you, the wearer, with protection.

Considerations for indoor mask-wearing

Wear a face covering when you are in an indoor public or private setting where you are not able to consistently maintain six feet of physical distancing between you and anyone outside of your household. In situations where you are routinely interacting with the same small group in close proximity, where ideally, everyone is fully vaccinated, consideration can be given to not wear a mask. Until COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for younger populations and children have had a chance to become fully immunized for COVID-19, children in classrooms and classroom-like settings should continue to wear masks when

physical distancing cannot be maintained. Also consider crowd sizes and frequent close contact with members of the general public. If you are going to be in a crowded indoor space having close interactions with people you don't know, or you have frequent close contact indoors with members of the public, masks should be worn.

If you work with or are interacting with someone you know is at a [higher risk for COVID-19](#), such as those 65 years and older and you don't know their vaccination status, always wear a mask when you are closer than six feet for an extended period of time (more than 15 minutes).

Considerations for outdoor mask-wearing

While COVID-19 transmission in outdoor settings is less likely, there are times when wearing a mask outdoors is a safer choice. Consider the number of people you will be around, the type of setting you are in, and the associated likeliness of breathing someone else's air.

When in doubt of what settings in which you should wear a face covering, CDH reminds people that masks remain a very effective safety measure that help protect those around you and you, the wearer.

Gatherings

Gatherings, especially those that bring together large groups in close settings, are higher risk environments for potential COVID-19 exposure. Indoor venues pose a greater risk than outdoor venues. Those who are at a higher risk for severe impacts from COVID-19 or who are not vaccinated should avoid large gatherings. View CDH's recommendations for Safer Gatherings at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus-resources.php>.

Choose to get vaccinated for COVID-19

Every dose counts and helps to get our communities closer to returning to the pre-pandemic ways of life we enjoy and have missed. The COVID-19 vaccines prevent severe disease and death from COVID-19 and help in reducing transmission. Help protect yourself and your loved ones by getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Find vaccine locations at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/covid-vaccine.php>

Duration of Advisory

The need for this advisory will be evaluated at the time when most everyone 16 years and older has had the opportunity to be vaccinated. CDH will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 case counts and data in Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties. A revised advisory could be considered districtwide or for individual counties if conditions warrant additional caution.