



Southeastern Idaho Public Health

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Idaho Rolls Back to Stage 3

Governor Little announced yesterday his plans to roll back the State to Stage Three of the Idaho Rebounds Plan. The reason for rolling back to Stage 3 was due to the spike in cases and an increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations over the last few weeks. "We're going back into a modified mode of the original Idaho Rebounds Order," said Maggie Mann, Southeastern Idaho Public Health's Executive Director. "COVID-19 continues to be a deadly disease it is critical we take this step back in attempt to limit the spread of the virus."

Southeast Idaho cases continue to increase. To date, Southeastern Idaho Public Health reports 5,207 cases and 41 deaths in its 8-county region. "The volume of new cases is very concerning. The number of cases over the last 2 weeks has increased significantly from the prior 2 week period," said Mann. "I can't stress enough the importance of physical distancing, wearing cloth face coverings in public places, staying home if you are sick and washing your hands. This can protect you, your family and your community." said Mann.

Stage Three of the Idaho Rebounds Plan takes effect on October 27th, limiting indoor gatherings to 50 people and outdoor gatherings to no more than 25% of the occupant capacity. In addition, indoor and outdoor gatherings should only be held where appropriate physical distancing and precautionary measures are observed. Bars, restaurants and nightclubs may operate with seating only, and nightclubs may only operate as a bar. Additionally, all long-term care facilities must require that masks be worn on their premises.

"Unfortunately, our efforts to date have not slowed the spread. It's up to all of us, and the choices we make every day, to help slow the spread of COVID-19," said Mann. "It's more important than ever for the people of southeastern Idaho to choose to adopt these precautions – if not for their own sake, then for the vulnerable, like the elderly and those with underlying conditions."

For more information on the guidelines to reopen Idaho, visit rebound.idaho.gov. For more information regarding COVID-19 visit siphidaho.org or call the Southeastern Idaho Public Health Hotline Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm at 208.234.5875. You can also watch us live on Facebook Monday - Friday at 11 am.