

FAQ's Stage 3

Why is the Governor issuing this Order? Why now?

The Governor is taking this action to protect the lives and safety of all Idahoans and to ensure each of us have access to medical care should we need it.

Access to healthcare in Idaho is being threatened by the number of people in our hospitals due to COVID-19. Hospitals in many parts of the state are nearly or completely full and patients are having to be transferred to other hospitals in Idaho and in other states to accommodate demand. We are seeing a significant increase in healthcare workers who are getting COVID and not able to work.

Idaho has reached a point where there is a serious risk that Idahoans who get in an accident, or have a heart attack or stroke, or some other emergency need may not be able to obtain the emergency medical care they need.

Additionally, case numbers and infection rates in Idaho have escalated substantially in recent weeks, making it likely that the demand for medical care and hospital beds will increase in the coming weeks.

Does this mean schools are closed?

Response: No, schools remain open under Stage 3. Governor Little has dedicated millions of dollars to ensure schools are open safely and strongly feels our schools need to stay open. The spread we are seeing in the state is not linked to schools being open. [See section 1.d.iii. of the Order, which is on page 4.]

What businesses are shut down under Stage 3?

Response: Idaho is open. Under Stage 3 our economy will remain open.

Does this mean you are closing churches?

Response: No. Churches remain open under Stage 3. Social distancing should be followed wherever possible.

How will this affect in person voting?

Response: Gatherings for political expression – including polling locations remain open under Stage 3. [See Section 1.d.i. of the Order, on the bottom of page 3.]

What about high school sports?

Response: Under stage 3 athletics can continue but with limited attendance at events. To adhere to the new social distancing measures, spectators and other non-participants will be limited. [See Section 1 and 1.d.iv of the Order, which is on pages 3 and 4.]

What about youth sports?

Response: Under stage 3 athletics can continue but with limited attendance at events. To adhere to the new social distancing measures, spectators and other non-participants in the activity will be limited. [See Section 1 and 1.d.iv of the Order, which is on pages 3 and 4.]

What about other extra-curricular activities such as band or theater?

Response: Under stage 3, extra-curricular activities can continue but with limited attendance at performances, concerts or other gatherings. To adhere to the new social distancing measures, spectators and other non-participants in the activity will be limited. [See Section 1 and 1.d.iv of the Order, which is on pages 3 and 4.]

How does this apply to Restaurants?

Restaurants remain open under stage 3 and need to continue to operate under the restaurant protocols and are required to seat patrons and space out tables. [See Section 1.c of the Order, which is on page 3.]

How does this apply to Bars and Night Clubs?

Response: Bars remain open under Stage 3 but are required to seat patrons. Night Clubs can be open, but must seat patrons. We are hopeful it will help with the spread we are seeing in the 18-29 age group. [See Section 1.c of the Order, which is on page 3.]

Will the state be enforcing this order?

Response: From day one the Governor has stressed education and doing the right thing. We will continue to educate on ways to slow the spread and have faith that the citizens of our great state will do the right thing.

Does this mean the Governor is mandating masks?

Response: No. The Governor is not issuing a statewide mask mandate. The mask mandate only applies to Long-Term Care Facilities such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities. [See Section 2 of the Order, which is on page 4.]

Does this apply to funerals?

Response: Under Stage 3 religious activities are exempted. [See Section 1.d.i. of the Order, which is at the bottom of page 3.]

How does the 50-person limit apply to grocery stores and large shopping areas?

Response: Stage 3 refers to gatherings. Grocery stores, shopping areas (Walmart, Home Depot, etc.) and malls are not considered gatherings. However, those businesses should comply with the Physical Distancing and Sanitation Requirements in Section 3 of the Order, which starts at the bottom of page 4.

Does this mean college football is cancelled?

Response: No. Under stage 3 athletics can continue but with limited attendance at events. To adhere to the new social distancing measures, spectators will be limited. [See Section 1 and 1.d.iv of the Order, which are on pages 3 and 4.]

How does this apply to in person learning at universities?

Response: Education institutions remain open under Stage 3.

Do I have to quarantine if I have left the state?

Response: No. Under stage 3 you do not have to quarantine if you have left the state. That said, if you have been exposed or in an area with high spread, you are encouraged to take the proper protocols.

Does this mean our border is closed?

Response: No. Stage 3 does not restrict travel in and out of the state.

What does this mean for families and Thanksgiving?

Response: Under the order, gatherings of less than 50 people are allowed. Smaller gatherings should comply with the Physical Distancing Requirements of the Order whenever possible. Gatherings of all sizes are one of the primary areas where we are seeing spread. Now is the time to act to protect your loved ones.

Does this order supersede local orders?

Response: Local governments and public health districts have the legal authority to implement more stringent orders that go above and beyond Stage 3.

I have an event that falls outside the permitted size limits, what are my options?

Response: Gatherings exceeding the size and capacity limitations may receive an exemption if (1) the organizer submits a plan for the gathering to the local health district having authority where the gathering is to occur, (2) receives approval of the plan from the health district, and (3) ensures compliance with the approved plan at the gathering. [See Sections 1 and 1.d.ii of the Order, which are on page 4]

Has this Stage 3 been modified from the previous Stage 3?

Response: A few modifications were made that include mask mandates in assisted living facilities, mandating bars, night clubs and restaurants seat patrons, and limiting social gatherings to 50 indoors, or 25% capacity outside.

Who Determines the capacity of an indoor or outdoor venue?

Response: Capacity is usually set by the building code and permitting authorities. For venues that do not have its capacity set by the building code or permitting authority, capacity should be limited to the number of people that can comply with the six-foot physical distancing requirements set out in Section 3 of the Governor's Stay Healthy Order.

Who should I contact if I feel that somebody is not adhering to Stage 3?

Response: The Governor has stressed education and doing the right thing. We will continue to educate on ways to slow the spread. If you feel someone has been educated and is still not adhering to Stage 3, you can choose to contact local authorities who can help with education.