



Dear Members of Idaho's Coronavirus Working Group,

The Idaho Public Health Association (IPHA) exists to foster and support improvements in the health and welfare of Idaho citizens and provide a forum for the expression and dissemination of health issues and emerging health information. In this time of developing science and uncertainty regarding coronavirus, the IPHA Board of Directors appreciates the hard work and difficult decisions being made at the national, state, and local levels to help curb the spread of the virus. Idahoans are resilient and we thank you for your efforts to communicate frequently to keep us informed and prepared.

The IPHA Board of Directors would like to acknowledge the steps taken to date to reduce the spread of coronavirus in Idaho. The creation of the Idaho Coronavirus Working Group will lead to a well thought out and evidence-informed approach to addressing coronavirus throughout Idaho. By declaring a state of emergency, Idaho lawmakers have the ability to access additional resources and funding to support our healthcare workers and state and local public health departments. The routine review of guidance for mass gatherings provides a fluid framework for event organizers, local governments and business owners to determine appropriate steps to reduce the risk of community spread throughout their regions. Through press conferences, development of, and ongoing updates on, the Idaho Coronavirus website, and the use of Twitter (@IdahoCovid19, @GovernorLittle, and @IDHW) to provide updates as they become available, the citizens of Idaho are able to rely on frequent and reliable updates from the Statehouse. These efforts are to be commended.

In order to continue to prevent and/or limit community spread of coronavirus, the IPHA Board of Directors recommends following guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) along with the [President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America](#). As of today, these guidelines include:

- Work from home whenever possible
- Limit gathering in groups of more than 10 people
- Avoid discretionary travel - including shopping trips and social visits
- Engage in good hygiene - wash your hands, avoid touching your face, and cough or sneeze into your elbow

During these difficult times, public health has never been more important. State and local public health staff are working tirelessly to protect communities and prevent the spread of disease. The IPHA Board of Directors recognizes we are all in this together and stands ready to assist the working group and Idahoans. Please let us know if there is a way we can support your prevention message across Idaho and protect the health and safety of Idahoans.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Idaho Public Health Association