COVID-19 Resource Guide

Housing and Humanity:

A Guide for Tenants and Fair Housing Providers in the Era of COVID-19

The Intermountain Fair Housing Council (IFHC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure open and inclusive housing for all persons without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, a source of income, or disability. The IFHC attempts to eradicate discrimination through, education on the fair housing laws, housing information and referral, housing counseling, and assistance with mediating and or filing fair housing complaints, among other things. The IFHC also provides education and outreach on fair housing laws and practices to housing providers and others.

Intermountain Fair Housing Council (IFHC) is here to help renters and community members during the COVID-19 crisis and the impact of this public health emergency. IFHC and our fair housing partners would like to help community members as they are experiencing layoffs, reduced work hours and wages, and other impacts from this crisis. Many tenants have and will experience financial hardships-they will be unable to pay rent, pay utilities, access food, access healthcare, and access transportation.

IFHC encourages tenants and housing providers to talk about their needs and work with each other to find a mutually agreeable solution, to keep everybody housed while preserving credit and rental histories. For tenants, if you can meet your needs and pay rent, you should. For those in our community who cannot meet their needs and pay rent, we have compiled this guide full of resources and best practice tips. We hope this information can help you and your community to stay healthy and housed during this unprecedented time.



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Assistance for American Families and Workers

The COVID-19 public health crisis and the resulting economic crisis have created a variety of challenges for families across the country and changed the way we all live

and work. The Treasury Department provides critical assistance to individuals and their families, creating the opportunity to keep families safe and thriving, at work and at home. See some of the resources available:

Emergency Rental Assistance

Even as the American economy continues its recovery from the devastating impact of the pandemic, millions of Americans face deep rental debt and fear evictions and the loss of basic housing security. COVID-19 has exacerbated an affordable housing crisis that predated the pandemic and that has exacerbated deep disparities that threaten the strength of an economic recovery that must work for everyone.

To meet this need, the Emergency Rental Assistance program makes funding available to government entities to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities.

<u>Learn more about funding to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments for emergency rental assistance on the U.S. Department of Treasury's website here.</u> https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/emergency-rental-assistance-program

Apply for Emergency Rental Assistance

Idaho residents who need help paying for rent or utilities

Ada County Residents:

The Boise City & Ada County Housing Authorities (BCACHA) administers the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). This program is designed to aid Ada County renters facing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are currently renting and your household has experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive emergency rent and/or utility assistance.

<u>Visit the Emergency Rental Assistance application on the Boise City & Ada County Housing Authority website here.</u>

https://erap.bcacha.org/

To qualify you must:

- Be an Ada County resident
- Have a current lease agreement
- Meet income eligibility criteria
- *Visit the ERAP Requirements page to learn more about the specific income eligibility requirements
- Have a documented loss of income due to COVID-19
- Be at risk of homelessness or housing instability

You will need the following documents:

- Proof of income, (2 months' worth)
- A copy of your lease agreement,
- A rent delinquency notice or your past-due utility bill,
- Basic information about each household member,
- An electronic copy of a government-issued ID,
- Email address for landlord.

The maximum amount of assistance households can receive is dependent upon need and funding availability. If you have any questions about eligibility, or if you need assistance completing the application, please call (208) 363-9710 or email erap@bcacha.org.

All Other Residents - Outside of Ada County
https://www.idahohousing.com/rental-assistance/rental-assistance-application/

The maximum amount of assistance households can receive is dependent upon need and funding availability. If you have any questions about eligibility, or if you need assistance completing the application, please call 1-855-452-080. You can also email rentalassistancecda@ihfa.org.

Idaho Housing and Finance Association

County:

ΑII

Homeowner Assistance Fund

Program provides:

888-991-2166

- Past due mortgage assistance for eligible applicants

haf@ihfa.org

https://www.idahohousing.com/haf

If you cannot pay your rent

In these uncertain times, you may encounter that you're struggling to make monthly rent payments. The first step is to talk to your housing provider as soon as possible to discuss payment options. Ask them to discuss a plan on how you both will address your inability to pay rent. You can ask for rent waiver/forgiveness and negotiate the terms of a payback with or without a contract provided by your landlord.

Here are some tips for talking with your landlord:

- Be open about your financial situation. Share how your income has been affected by COVID-19 or other difficulties. You shouldn't be required to provide financial documents as proof.
- Be clear about your needs and keep in mind your landlord may be struggling financially too.
- Mention any resources and options you've found that could be helpful.
- Explain how your family would be impacted by a loss of housing, even if temporary.
- Ask for flexible payment arrangements or payment plans. Get an agreement in writing and/or document the agreement.
- Keep a written record of your conversations, including any email and text conversations. Keep track of the date and time you spoke.
 - If you AND your landlord are in Idaho, you can legally record the conversation via your phone or recording device as evidence supporting your agreement.

Housing providers, you play a large role in keeping people housed at any time but especially during the pandemic. Evictions are very expensive and time-consuming for both parties. Rather than a costly and emotionally taxing eviction process, try creating a payment plan. You still get your rent money, and your tenant gets to stay in their home.

<u>Jesse Tree of Idaho provides forms</u> for both renters and housing providers to negotiate a payment plan on their website.

https://www.jessetreeidaho.org/payment-plan

Deferral Agreements

A rent deferment agreement allows a tenant to defer rent payment for a specified period. Typically, the agreement defers only a portion of rent and the tenant must continue to make minimum payments. Keep in mind that under Idaho law if you owe

rent and do not pay or you are being evicted, you may be evicted if an agreement is not reached. See legal resources at the end of this guide.

Some items to look at should your housing provider request or require a deferral agreement:

- Are they requiring you or your co-tenants to have evidence of nonpayment? See above for tips.
- Are they requiring you and or your co-tenants to have a cosigner or guarantor who must also meet certain criteria?
- Are they asking you if you have Increased costs related to children and childcare? If so, they cannot discriminate against families with children.
- If they are asking you if you have medical costs, this may be an inquiry into the nature or the severity of a disability. If you have questions or concerns, contact the legal resources in this document.
- If they are denying your request to forgo eviction, rent and or a deferral agreement because of lease violations, past due rent, litigation and or other dispute, and you need help, contact legal resources in this document.

Other potential concerns to consider related to any agreement and may warrant legal assistance and/or clarification:

- The housing provider caps the monthly amount deferred or only defer a portion if the tenant is only partially affected.
- The monthly repayment of rent is strict and does not allow payment over a reasonable period as a tenant can afford.
- The monthly payments do not extend beyond the end of the current lease, and or may not allow new lease unless all back rent is paid.
- Housing providers may require you to update the application, review your current application to make sure it is accurate, and or the like.

Navigating a Rental Deferment Qualification Program - Demonstrating financial impact

If your housing provider has a rent deferment qualification program, they might require you to demonstrate financial status due to the COVID-19 crisis by showing evidence of financial impact because of exposure to COVID-19, quarantine, loss of wages because of public health-related business closure or reduced services, etc. If the housing provider asks you to provide evidence or information you don't understand or have questions about, put your questions in writing and or follow the self-advocacy information above. If you feel uncomfortable sharing information after clarification such as your disability, sensitive bank information, social security number, and or medical information, contact the legal resources in this guide for assistance.

If your housing provider asks you to forgo your federal relief money to stay current on rent and you cannot afford to do so because of COVID-19, need for food, medical care, and the like, let them know that you cannot do so and why. You do not need to state the nature of your medical care and or disability as that is private information. If your housing provider asks about your medical condition and or disability to qualify for rent forgiveness or deferment, it may violate the Fair Housing Act. Contact Intermountain Fair Housing Council for support.

Reasonable Accommodation Requests

Reasonable accommodations are an important tool to protect the housing rights of tenants with disabilities. Given the huge impact of pandemic on tenants across the country, advocates should consider utilizing these important protections to protect tenants with exposure to COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that people over the age of 65 and people with certain underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk of severe illness or complications from COVID-19. Because of this, the CDC and medical professionals have advised that individuals at higher risk should limit their exposure to other people. This impacts people's ability to conduct daily life activities.

Many, if not all, of the underlying medical conditions that make people more vulnerable to serious COVID-19 related illnesses are considered disabilities under the Fair Housing Act. If a tenant with a disability needs a change to a landlord's rules or policies to protect themselves from contracting COVID-19, they should be entitled to a reasonable accommodation. For example, a tenant that was scheduled to vacate their unit by a certain date could request additional time to remain in the unit, or a person could need modified guest policies to allow caregivers and persons bringing supplies to the individual.

COVID-19 may be considered a disability and thus, housing providers should consider granting reasonable accommodations related to COVID:

- additional time to pay rent or to find affordable, accessible housing.
- additional time for whatever is needed if the individual has COVID an extension on time to find housing, an extension on eviction procedures, an accommodation in the manner rent is paid, etc.

If you need additional time to pay rent and or to move due to your disability, contact the <u>Intermountain Fair Housing Council</u> to begin a Reasonable Accommodation Request to request more time to move.

https://ifhcidaho.org/contact-us/

The Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) is a federal law that prohibits discrimination in housing. One of the many protections of the FHA is the right of individuals with disabilities to request a reasonable accommodation in the rules, policies, practices, or services of a housing provider and requires housing providers to make "reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling."

The Act defines a person with a disability to include (1) individuals with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) individuals who are regarded as having such an impairment; and (3) individuals with a record of such an impairment.

The term "physical or mental impairment" includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection, mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction (other than addiction caused by current, illegal use of a controlled substance) and alcoholism. The term "substantially limits" suggests that the limitation is "significant" or "to a large degree." The term "major life activity" means those activities that are of central importance to daily life, such as seeing, hearing, walking, breathing, performing manual tasks, caring for oneself, learning, and speaking. This list of major life activities is not exhaustive.

Whenever a person submits a request that a rule, policy, practice, or service be changed or modified in some way to afford a person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, such a request is a reasonable accommodation request.

The request:

- Doesn't have to be in writing, but it's recommended
- There is no specific HUD form
- Should state that the person has a disability (doesn't need to say which one)
- Should state that the person needs the accommodation or modification because of their disability
- Should state that the accommodation or modification is necessary to give them equal use of their housing

The person receiving a reasonable accommodation request may not maintain a blanket policy about such requests. Instead, each reasonable accommodation request

must be considered on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the granting of the request is necessary to afford the person with a disability who submitted the request equal opportunity to use and enjoy their dwelling.

A reasonable accommodation request can be denied if it is not "reasonable". A reasonable accommodation request is not "reasonable" if it imposes a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program or an undue financial or administrative burden on the party to whom it is submitted. For more information on Reasonable Accommodation Requests, please see IFHC's <u>guide here</u>.

https://ifhcidaho.org/resources/guide-to-reasonable-accommodation-in-housing-under-the-fair-housing-act/

The person considering a reasonable accommodation request may not require any specific forms or procedures to be used and may not require that the request be made in writing or at any specific time or place.

If the housing provider (or the person who receives a reasonable accommodation request) decides that the request will be denied, they must first engage in an interactive dialogue with the person who requested the accommodation to explore how an accommodation can be granted. A housing provider that engages in hostile or harassing actions while having an interactive dialogue with the tenant can be found to have not sufficiently engaged in the interactive process and the reasonable accommodation request can be deemed to have been denied. Furthermore, such conduct may be illegal retaliation in violation of the FHA.

If your housing provider is unwilling to engage in an interactive process to find an accommodation that will work, contact Intermountain Fair Housing Council.

For sample forms and more guidance on Requesting Reasonable Accommodations or Reasonable Modifications, check out <u>our guide on the IFHC website</u>. https://ifhcidaho.org/resources/guide-to-reasonable-accommodation-in-housing-under-the-fair-housing-act/

Tenant Support

See IFHC's Guide to Organizing Tenant Associations: Organizing Tenant Associations https://www.facebook.com/ifhcidaho/photos/pcb.2917755341634861/2917753561635039/?type=3&theate r

Contact <u>Boise Renters United</u> if you would like support or to plug in with ongoing tenant efforts in Idaho. <u>boiserentersunited@gmail.com</u>
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2433461003338109/

The 2-1-1 Idaho CareLine is a free, statewide community information and referral service, and is a program of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. Our comprehensive database includes programs that offer free or low-cost health and human services or social services. Simply dial <u>2-1-1</u> or <u>800-926-2588</u> or text 898211 to be connected to a 2-1-1 community resource specialist Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. MST.

You can find resources three ways.

- Text **898211** to get information from a 2-1-1 community resource specialist.
- Call <u>2-1-1</u> or <u>800-926-2588</u> to get information from a 2-1-1 community resource specialist.
- <u>Search online</u> for available resources.

United Way in cooperative effort with Find Help Resources is currently maintaining the Statewide Resource Find Help Idaho: https://findhelpidaho.org/

In the Boise area: https://www.homelesscoalitionboise.com/homeless-resource-guide-and-meals-calendar/ and/or www.boiselist.org

Know Your Rights During COVID-19

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tTWDHkbOtYPNalsN3IEi5yUjZI9qMdhL2IAM_S8bVqE/edit

Intermountain Fair Housing Council

Email: contact@ifhcidaho.org

Phone: 208-383-0695 Toll-Free: 1-800-717-0695

www.ifhcidaho.org

Idaho Legal Aid Services
Boise office: 208-746-7541

Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program

Phone: 208-334-4500

Lawyer Referral Services Phone: 208-334-4500

<u>Taking Care of Your Emotional Health</u> - CDC https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/selfcare.asp

Counselor. This takes less than five minutes, remains anonymous. The Crisis Counselor will help you sort through your feelings by asking questions, empathizing, and actively listening. https://www.crisistextline.org/text-us/

Help is Waiting - Call or Text 988

If you are struggling with a mental or emotional problem, having trouble with drugs or alcohol, having family or relationship problems - reach out. Someone is always here for you on the other end of the line. You can call for yourself, or someone you care about.

<u>If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence</u>, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline via text or call at 1-800-799-7233.

For survivors of addiction who are having difficulty especially with this displacement, this may be helpful:

A.A's Online Group

https://aa-intergroup.org/

 Quarantined and In Recovery? We Got You Covered https://structuredsoberliving.com/coronavirus-addiction-recovery-lockdown/

<u>Access Point</u> is a central location in each county where people can discuss in person or over the phone their housing crisis.

https://www.idahohousing.com/homeless-resources/

Indigenous Community Resources

Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority

The mission of the Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority is to create opportunities to meet the housing needs of enrolled members of the Nez Perce Tribe by maximizing the utilization of available resources to ensure services are provided in an efficient, professional, economical, and timely manner; forming and enhancing partnerships between the NPTHA and tribal, state, local, and private entities; promoting self-sufficiency and improving the quality of life. Find current information at https://nezperce.org/government/housing/.

Fort Hall Housing Authority

The mission of the Fort Hall Housing Authority is to "develop and manage affordable housing for the purpose of providing decent, safe, and sanitary housing for eligible tribal members and to create economic development opportunities that promote stability of the program and the social well-being of our community." For more details about Covid 19 see the website: https://www.sbtribes.com/covid-19/.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe

The modern Coeur d'Alene Tribe is the sum of uncounted centuries of untold generations. In the tribe's own ancient language, it is called Schitsu'umsh, meaning "Those who were found here" or "The discovered people". In this remains a land abundant in beauty and resources, a legacy of leadership, and a lineage that continues from the time immemorial. The Coeur d'Alenes are who they always were and who they will always be. For more details in regards to the Covid 19 response: https://www.marimnhealth.org/coronavirus/

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes

The Tribal Administration provides an array of government services to the people of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation.

The mission of Duck Valley Indian Reservation: Under the direction of the Business Council, Tribal Administration is charged with protecting and preserving the Shoshone-Paiute culture and natural resources. Assist and encourage the economic development of the membership and the Tribe, and to deliver program services to the best of our ability. For more information regarding Covid 19 resources: https://shopaitribes.org/spt/covid-19-info.html.

Vaccine Finder

Find COVID-19 Vaccines

County:

*Statewide

1-800-232-0233

https://www.vaccines.gov/

Find more information about vaccine locations, the vaccine

brands available, and walk-in or scheduling details

Department of Health and Welfare

County:

*Statewide

Navigation Services

2-1-1

Email

Address

Boise, ID 83706

https://svdpid.org/help-line/

Navigators provide: - Case management

- Help plan and organize - Provide resources

- Connection to community resources

- Navigating the system

- Help with rent, utilities, work expenses (if funds are

accessible)

Catholic Charities of Idaho

County:

Comprehensive Case Management and Crisis Intervention Services

*Statewide

208-345-6031

East Idaho Location

208-881-0740

Treasure Valley location:

Case Management participants may be eligible for:

- Rental/Mortgage Eviction Assistance

- Utility Assistance

- Vehicle Repair Assistance - Medical Expense Assistance

- Food Boxes and Resources

- Diapers, Pull Ups, and Potty Chairs/Training Materials

- Hygiene Kits, Women's Personal Care Kits, and Baby Kits - Connection to local physical and mental health providers

- And more! Please visit website for program details.

Idaho Housing and Finance Association

County:

*Statewide

Homeowner Assistance Fund

https://www.ccidaho.org/

Program provides:

888-991-2166

- Past due mortgage assistance for eligibile applicants

haf@ihfa.org



https://www.idahohousing. com/haf

Region 1

St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho

Rent and Utility Assistance

208-664-3095 ext 307

becca@stvincentdepaulcda.org

https:

//stvincentdepaulnorthidaho. org/area/house

Assistance with:

- Rent and utilities

County:

County:

Kootenai

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone

County:

Clearwater

St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRR)

208-664-3095 ext 307

becca@stvincentdepaulcda.org

https:

//stvincentdepaulnorthidaho. org/area/house

Services provided:

- Financial assistance - Case management
- Information and referrals
- *Must be literally homeless for Rapid Re-housing
- *Must have an eviction notice for Homeless prevention

Region 2

Clearwater County

Indigent Services

208-476-3864

150 Michigan Ave Orofino, ID 83544

https://www.clearwatercounty. org

For those who qualify, assistance may be available for:

- Rent to avoid eviction
- Utilities to avoid shut-off
- Emergency prescriptions
- Medical costs
- Dental extractions
- *Assistance is required to be "as a last resort" only; or when no other alternative exists

Region 3

St. Vincent De Paul Southwest Idaho

Ada County & Mountain Home:

Assistance can be help with:

County:

208-331-2208

- Rent and utility assistance (when eviction is imminent)

Ada, Canyon,

Caldwell area: 208-919-2940

- Food

Mountain

Nampa area: 208-466-3400

- Clothing

- Furniture

Home

https://svdpid.org/

- Transportation - Reentry Services

- Prison Pickup

The Jesse Tree of Idaho

County:

208-383-9486

This program provides:

Ada,

office@jessetreeidaho.org

- Emergency rent assistance coupled with case management

Canyon

1121 W Miller St

- Connection to financial assistance

Boise, ID 83702

- Connection to community support resources

https://www.jessetreeidaho.org

- Support and information about the eviction process-

- One-on-one support

- Navigating the system

Community Council of Idaho

County:

Community Services Block Program (CSBG) 208-734-3336

Emergency Assistance for help with:

Canyon, Elmore, Washington

https:

- Rent - Utilities

//communitycouncilofidaho.org/

CC Idaho offers:

- Employment and Training

- Food boxes

Region 4			
South Central Community Action	Partnership	County:	
Community Services Block Progr Twin Falls Office: 208-733-9351 Burley Office: 208-678-3514 Or 1-800-627-1733 randy@sccap-id.org ▼ 550 Washington Street South Twin Falls, ID 83303 http://www.sccap-id.org	am (CSBG) Programs such as: Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program Utility Assistance Program Telephone Assistance Homeless Assistance Program Youth Assistance Transportation Assistance Information and Referrals	Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls	
Community Council of Idaho		County:	
Community Services Block Progr 208-734-3336 communitycouncilofidaho.org/	am (CSBG) Emergency Assistance for help with: - Rent - Utilities	Cassia, Gooding, Twin Falls	
Blaine County Charitable Fund		County:	
208-244-5205 info@blainecf.org 101 Empty Saddle Trail Hailey, ID 83333 https://www.blainecf.org	Assistance for: - Rent - Utilities - First/last/deposit rent assistance program	Blaine	
Blaine County		County:	
208-788-5566	Assistance for: - Rent - Utilities - Cremation Assistance from Blaine County must be "a last resort". Please Note: If you are in eviction proceedings Blaine	Blaine	

Region 5

Community Council of Idaho

Community Services Block Program (CSBG)

County: Bingham

208-734-3336

Emergency Assistance for help with:

https:

//communitycouncilofidaho.org/

- Rent

- Utilities

CC Idaho offers:

Employment and Training

Food boxes

St. Vincent de Paul

County:

Social Services

Bannock

208-406-1216

Financial help for those who qualify for:

pocatellosvdp@gmail.com

- Rent - Utilities

9 855 S. 2nd Ave

- and other assistance as available

Pocatello, ID 83201 http://www.svdppoc.com/

Vouchers for:

Thursdays 11:00am - 1:00pm

- Clothing, furniture, bedding, and household items

Region 6

Community Council of Idaho

County: Bonneville

Community Services Block Program (CSBG)

Emergency Assistance for help with:

https:

208-734-3336

- Rent

//communitycouncilofidaho.org/

- Utilities

CC Idaho offers:

Employment and Training

Food boxes

Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership

Family & Emergency Services

Programs to assist with:

205-522-5391

- Utilities - Rent

info@eicap.org 935 E Lincoln Rd

Idaho Falls, ID 83401

- Education

https://www.eicap.org/ourprograms/family-services/

Madison,

County:

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer,

Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi,

Teton

Region 7			
t. Vincent De Paul Southwest Idaho			
Ada County & Mountain Home: 208-331-2208 https://svdpid.org/	Assistance can be help with: - Rent and utility assistance (when eviction is imminent) - Food - Clothing - Furniture - Transportation - Reentry Services - Prison Plckup	Ada, Canyon, Mountair Home	
The Jesse Tree of Idaho		County:	
208-383-9486 ✓ office@jessetreeidaho.org 1121 W Miller St Boise, ID 83702 https://www.jessetreeidaho.org	This program provides: - Emergency rent assistance coupled with case management - Connection to financial assistance - Connection to community support resources - Support and information about the eviction process One-on-one support - Navigating the system	Ada, Canyon	
Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority (BCACHA)			
Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)		Ada	
208-363-9710 ☐ erap@bcacha.org ☐ https://erap.bcacha.org/	This program provides: - Rental assistance - Utility assistance		
Ada County Indigent Services		County:	
208-287-7960 ✓ 252 E Front St, Suite 199 Boise, ID 83702	Services Available: - Rent and utility Assistance - Limited to one month's service in a 12-month period - Property Taxes - Cancellation or reduction of property taxes for those facing difficulties	Ada	



What you should know

TESTING

At-home rapid tests offer results in 15 to 30 minutes. Rapid antigen tests are available for purchase online and in many retail locations. They may also be available for free through your health insurance.

PCR tests are widely available at healthcare providers and pharmacies, but results take longer.

To find a test site near you, visit https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/community-based-testing-sites/index.html or contact your local urgent care clinic or pharmacy to get an appointment.

Testing is important to help reduce the spread of COVID-19: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html

VACCINATIONS AND BOOSTERS

Everyone over 6 months old should get a COVID-19 vaccination.

Everyone who is eligible and 5 and older should get a booster dose.

Those 50 and older (and some people 12 years and older who are immunocompromised) should get a second booster. It continues to be true that those who are vaccinated are much less likely to go to the hospital or suffer from severe illness.

Vaccines are safe, effective, and free: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html

VACCINATIONS FOR CHILDREN

Vaccinations are safe and available for children 6 months and older. If you have concerns about the vaccines, talk to your child's doctor.

Vaccines for children and teens: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.

html

TREATMENT

If you are diagnosed with covid-19 and have factors that put you at higher risk of more severe illness, talk to your doctor to see if you are eligible for treatment. Oral antiviral medications are widely available. There are options for intravenous (iv) medications if you cannot take an oral antiviral. You need a doctor's referral for any of these treatments. If you are immunocompromised, ask your doctor if a preventive monoclonal antibody shot would be helpful to you.

Therapeutics authorized by the fda: https://coronavirus.ldaho.Gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/covid-19 therapeutics-at-a-glance patients 20220113 final.Pdf

ISOLATION AND PRECAUTIONS

In general, if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or are having symptoms of a respiratory illness, do whatever you can to avoid making others sick. Stay home if you're sick. If you are unable to stay home, wear a high-quality mask in public places. Try to keep your distance from others in your home to prevent them from getting sick.

More details about isolation and precautions are available at https:/www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html

PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK

Some people are more likely than others to become severely ill.
These people include older people, those with medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, obesity, immune compromised, etc), and pregnant and recently pregnant women.
People at increased risk, and those who live or visit with them, need to take precautions to protect themselves from COVID-19.

Information for specific groups of people: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html



PANDEMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Things to do everyday

MASKS

Everyone should wear a high-quality mask in public places when disease spread is medium or high according to CDC guidelines. Depending on individual risk, some may want to wear a mask in other situations as well. All masks offer some protection against the virus. Certain types of masks may provide more protection than others.

Your guide to masks: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/masks.

PHYSICAL DISTANCE

Small particles that people breathe out can contain virus. The closer you are to a greater number of people, the more likely you are to be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

There are many things you can do to protect yourself and others every day: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html

STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK

If you have any symptoms of respiratory illness (coughing, runny nose, congestion), stay home until you feel better to avoid making others sick.

How to protect yourself and others: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html

WASH OR SANITIZE YOUR HANDS OFTEN

Wash or sanitize your hands often, especially after using the bathroom, before you eat, and when you get home after being in public.

How to protect yourself and others: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html



PANDEMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Where to get information

- Find a testing location near you
- Idaho's COVID-19 website
- CDC COVID-19 website
- About COVID-19 in Idaho
- Find COVID-19 and flu vaccines/boosters near you: Use <u>vaccines.gov</u> to find a location near you, then call or visit their website to make an appointment.
- Vaccine eligibility: All Idahoans 6 months and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. Those 12 and older are eligible for the Novavax vaccine.
- Booster doses: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone who is vaccinated and eligible should get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. See more details about the CDC's booster recommendations.

- How to get a copy of your vaccination record:
 Contact a healthcare provider or pharmacy or download and use the Docket app. <u>More information about Docket</u>.
- DHW Voice blog
- Where and when to get your vaccination
- Counseling assistance for frontline workers is available.
- Follow the Department of Health and Welfare on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>Instagram</u> for daily updates and information you can trust.

