

May 14, 2020

COVID-19 Daily Briefing Report

City of Post Falls Updates:

- City Hall was opened to drop in customers today with limits on the number of visitors allowed in each department at one time. A finance employee is staffing a desk in the rotunda to answer questions, take utility payments, and monitor the number of visitors.
- Staff is working with Panhandle Health District regarding restaurant reopening plans and how non-compliance will be handled. There is some question as to the definition of a restaurant vs. a bar. Once all the information is gathered and approved, a summary will be forwarded to everyone and put on the City's website so the information is readily available to answer any of the public's questions. See attached CDA Press article on Panhandle Health's support of reopening restaurants.
- City of Post Falls COVID-19 Webpage Link:
 - <https://www.postfallsidaho.org/how-your-city-is-preparing/>
- City of Post Falls Facebook Page Link:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/cityofpostfalls/>
- City of Post Falls Police Department Facebook Page Link:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/postfallspolice/>

Idaho State/Governor Little Updates:

- The Governor's Coronavirus Financial Advisory Committee sent their recommendations on how to allocate the state's \$152 million in CARES funds. See attached Idaho Business Review article.
- State Webpage: <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/>
- Governor Brad Little Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/governorbradlittle/>
- Idaho OEM Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/IdahoOEM/>

Kootenai County/Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Updates:

- Total cases of COVID-19 in the Panhandle Health District area is 66, 62 in Kootenai County. No new cases since my last briefing.
- Idaho Department of Health & Welfare toll-free number for questions about COVID and the stay-at-home order is (888) 330-3010.

- Facebook Page Link: <https://www.facebook.com/kootenaiOEM/>

Regional Updates:

- Many Washington State lands open for recreation tomorrow, May 5th, including some areas for hunting, fishing, hiking, and boating. This will hopefully lessen some of the complaints Post Falls PD is fielding regarding Washington residents in Idaho.

National Updates:

- Washington D.C. has become a new hot spot for the coronavirus as it has the highest recent growth in cases among the nation's 10 largest metro areas. The House of Representatives have delayed their return to the Nation's Capital while the Senate will reconvene today.
- The CDC updated a General Business FAQ site for interim guidance on COVID related operating questions https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM27395
- The U.S. Treasury plans to borrow \$3 trillion from April to June in order to cover the response to the coronavirus pandemic <https://www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2020/05/04/treasury-coronavirus-debt-borrowing/>

External Links for Updates:

Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Panhandle Health District: <http://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/>

Facebook Page Link: <https://www.facebook.com/kootenaiOEM/>

Post Falls Chamber Message from the Mayor.

A Message

From Ron Jacobson, Mayor of Post Falls

To say that these are interesting and unprecedented times is perhaps the most obvious understatement one can make. Who could have imagined a time where we are encouraged to “social distance” and self-quarantine, where we are discouraged from shaking hands or hugging, a time where we are discouraged from gathering in groups. I hope these are unusual times, and not the new norm.

One thing has become abundantly clear, there are many different opinions in regards to the coronavirus. Some feel a shutdown was essential, others oppose that decision. Over the past several weeks, I have spoken with the governor’s office on several occasions. I have also communicated with other elected officials, the CEO of Kootenai Health, local physicians, many local church leaders, business owners, employees, and others. I have been asked to allow businesses to open, to extend the lockdown, to allow churches to gather, to prevent people from Washington to cross our borders and to open parks and playgrounds. I have been thanked for actions we have taken, been blamed for the governor’s order, been called a tyrant, sworn at and prayed for.

My point is that we will never all agree on what should or should not be done. While we are entitled to our own opinion, let’s show civility, understanding and kindness with those with different views. I want nothing more than to get businesses open, ALL businesses. That being said, we have to do so in a safe, responsible manner. Even if you don’t feel social distancing is important, respect those that do. We will get through this pandemic, not without pain but assisted with kindness.

I ask that we help each other as we move forward. Although you may not agree with someone, treat them with respect and kindness. Patronize our local businesses, help those who are suffering financially, donate to the foodbank and other charities who provide assistance to those in need.

We are one community, one state, one nation, one world. We are all affected by this disease. Let’s help each other survive these difficult times through kindness, tolerance and understanding.