

May 14, 2020

COVID-19 Daily Briefing Report

City of Post Falls Updates:

- With restaurants possibly opening their dining rooms if Idaho moves to Phase 2 on May 16th, staff put together a statement to assist with questions. Panhandle Health also prepared a statement for restaurants. Both are attached.
- Staff is continuing to monitor and implement all new protocols for opening for the various segments as Idaho Rebounds is issuing them. We are also continuing to work with the CDC updates as they become available for both citizens and employees.
- 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:

- Idaho has partnered with Battelle in order to decontaminate up to 80,000 N95-type respirators per day for local and state jurisdictions across the state, allowing the masks to be reused multiple times. There is no cost for first responders' use of the service <https://www.battelle.org/inquiry/offerings-and-services/covid-response>
- Idaho unemployment numbers are in for the past eight weeks, with the biggest losses coming from food service workers. 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 have been added since my last briefing.
- Idaho Department of Health & Welfare new 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:

- As Post Falls is so closely tied to Washington, we have put together a comparison of the phased reopening between the two states. Keep in mind this is only a summary of the overall plans and all dates are subject to change. See attached PDF
- Walla Walla County officials said 25 people there had an intentional COVID party with the idea that it was, “Better to get sick with the virus now and get it over with.” As of Monday, 94 Walla Walla residents had been diagnosed with the virus including some from a Tyson Meats factory <https://cdapress.com/news/2020/may/06/people-holding-coronavirus-parties-in-5/>

National Updates:

- Research shows a sharp rise in food insecurity in the U.S. with more than 17 percent of children in the country without enough food, a rate three times higher than during the Great Recession. Lawmakers continue to debate the best way to combat hunger in the U.S. amid the current economic hardship caused by the pandemic <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/06/us/politics/coronavirus-hunger-food-stamps.html>
- The Economic Injury Disaster Loan program run through the Small Business Administration quietly reduced its loan limit from \$2 million to \$150,000 on Monday, and is now only accepting agricultural business applications due to the tremendous backlog of total applications <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/05/07/sba-disaster-loans/>

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/>