



# Panhandle Health District

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Panhandle Health District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 31, 2020

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## **Panhandle Health District Case Count of COVID-19 at 31**

The Panhandle Health District (PHD) announces the total number of cases of COVID-19 is 31 in the Panhandle area. Thirty of the cases are in Kootenai County and one in Bonner County. Details on new cases will be posted on the PHD website page in real time: [www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/covid-19/](http://www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/covid-19/).

PHD will make a daily announcement if there are confirmed cases within the Panhandle at noon, 7 days a week.

We have community transmission in Kootenai County. Some of the confirmed cases are not connected to travel or contact with a confirmed case. We continue to urge the public to adhere to the stay-home order made by Governor Little. We know practicing social distancing strategies can slow the spread of this virus, but we need everyone to do their part.

The Panhandle area includes the five northern counties (Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Bonner, and Boundary).

In the United States, there have been 140,904 cases and 2,405 deaths as of March 30, 2020 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Epidemiologists with PHD are working to investigate cases of possible contact. All household members of confirmed cases have been asked to self-isolate at home for a prescribed period of time. If other people are found to have been exposed, health officials will provide guidance to these individuals and they will be asked to self-monitor for the development of symptoms.

PHD will continue to monitor the situation closely and are working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, city and county leaders, schools, emergency management, healthcare providers, and our community at large to help prevent the spread of this virus.

People ill with this coronavirus in other states and countries have reported mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. If community members have these symptoms and they become severe, they should call PHD's call center at 1-877-415-5225, their provider, or the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-330-3010. PHD will provide an over-the-phone assessment to determine if someone should be tested. Please call, do not come into PHD or your provider's office. Tested individuals must stay home until test results are received. If the test is positive, all household members must self-isolate at home for a prescribed period of time.

Learn more:

- Idaho-specific information about the novel coronavirus: [coronavirus.idaho.gov/](https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/)
- Panhandle specific information: [www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/covid-19/](http://www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/covid-19/)
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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**Panhandle Health District** provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.

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