



# Panhandle Health District

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

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

**Panhandle Health District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 31, 2020

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## **Community Transmission Identified in Boundary & Shoshone Counties**

The Panhandle Health District (PHD) has identified community transmission in Boundary and Shoshone counties. In the Panhandle area, community transmission, also referred to as community spread, has been identified in all five northern counties: Kootenai, Bonner, Benewah, Boundary, and Shoshone.

Community spread means at least one person has been infected with the virus and through contact tracing we are unable to determine how or where they became infected. The individual(s) did not travel and had no identified contact with another person with COVID-19. PHD urges all residents to assume the virus could be anywhere in the community and surrounding counties.

Below is additional data for our area:

<b>County</b>	<b>Case Rate per 100,000</b>	<b>Total Hospitalizations</b>	<b>Case Fatality Rate per 100,000</b>
<b>Kootenai</b>	899.8	67	4.8
<b>Bonner</b>	308.2	8	0
<b>Boundary</b>	277.7	1	0
<b>Benewah</b>	430.2	3	0
<b>Shoshone</b>	489.1	4	7.8
<b>District 1</b>	<b>719.5</b>	<b>4.8% Rate</b>	<b>0.5%</b>

\*Note, population is from US Census (July 1, 2019). Total hospitalizations are not an indicator of current hospitalizations, but is total hospitalizations our area has experienced throughout this pandemic.

The percent positivity rate for our district is 12.71% as of 7/25/2020. This positivity rate tells us that the increase in testing does not account for our increase in cases.

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

If community members have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to a confirmed case, they should call their primary care provider or PHD's call center at 1-877-415-5225. Please call, do not come into PHD or your provider's office.

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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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