



Panhandle Health District

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Panhandle Health District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2020

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Panhandle Health District provides community spread categories for school districts in response to COVID-19

This week, Panhandle Health District (PHD) began its official weekly assessment and reporting of categories of community spread for use by school districts in Kootenai, Bonner, Benewah, Boundary, and Shoshone Counties in their decision-making processes and operations for COVID-19. The categories are defined in the [Idaho Back to School Framework](#), as approved by the State Board of Education in early July, and indicate what level of in-person learning and response is recommended.

The categories referenced below are only recommendations for the week indicated; final decisions are made by local school boards. Private and charter schools are recommended to use the category based on the address of their facility and associated school district boundary.

The metrics used to make the category determinations are based off of the [Levels of Community Spread for Idaho Back-to-School Framework](#).

[For the week of August 3, 2020]

County	Category
Kootenai	Category 2
Benewah	Category 2
Bonner	Category 2
Boundary	Category 2
Shoshone	Category 2

Weekly assessments of community spread will be updated on Thursdays at www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/COVID-19. If category designations are adjusted, then schools and families should expect transition time as changes may or may not be immediate.

- Category 1: No Community Transmission

- Category 2: Mild to Moderate Community Transmission
- Category 3: Substantial Community Transmission

If you have questions regarding COVID-19 in our area, call the Panhandle Health District hotline at 877-415-5225. The hotline is open Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm. For up-to-date data on COVID-19 in our area, visit www.panhandlehealthdistrict.org/COVID-19. For data on COVID-19 in Idaho, visit coronavirus.idaho.gov.

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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