

Hi All-

What a week! Hard to believe it only has been seven days since Idaho's first confirmed case of COVID-19. Thank you all for continuing to show up and being vigilant in our prevention efforts. If there are concerns that you have or ideas for what we could be doing better, please don't hesitate to speak up.

Statewide Update: At last count, we now have 31 confirmed cases in Idaho and that number is expected to grow. A cluster of cases surfaced in Blaine County and, for the first time in Idaho, presented some evidence of limited community spread. Governor Little encourages all of us to be even more vigilant in our preventative measures to try slow the spread of coronavirus.

PO Academy: COVID-19 may have prevented a big graduation celebration for PO Academy 29 today, but it didn't stop 18 new PPOs from completing the academy. A number of us were able to visit them at POST this afternoon, administer the oath, and send them off. Congratulations graduates!

Purchasing: Facilities and offices continue to be able to make routine purchases to conduct business, however, please refrain from any panicky (I wasn't sure what else to call it) purchases on your P-cards. Bob Morlan is serving as our logistics chief during this operational period so he'll be heading up COVID-19 purchases and supplies for the agency. He also is keeping close tabs on any supply chain issues, so you shouldn't panic unless he does! He's on top of it, so please reach out if you have a need.

Testing the Incarcerated Population: To date, we've tested 6 people in our custody and we've received results back on 2. Both were negative. The other 4 have been isolated until their results come back.

In the news: A number of us are beginning to receive calls, emails, and questions asking if we are planning to release people from prison early as a way to limit the number of people in our custody. We've seen other jurisdictions do this and we've had people on both sides of the issue reach out to us. Here's my response - *Like all of our partners in law enforcement, we are exercising maximum discretion during this public health emergency to ensure only those who pose an immediate risk to public safety are taken into or remain in custody.*

What's happening today is unprecedented, and it's easy for us to get caught up being an observer of current events. But don't get so caught up watching what happens that you do so at the expense of your opportunity to make things happen! Our important work continues. A lot of people are counting on us. And I know we're up for it!

More to come. Stay safe and take care of each other.

Thanks-
Josh