

COVID-19 Update - June 26, 2020

Hi all-

The spread of COVID-19 across Idaho is not slowing. At the close of business today, the health districts reported 277 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Idaho, a single-day record. Among that number was 1 additional IDOC staff member. The staff member who tested positive is a central office employee. The employee has been telecommuting and was last in the office on June 10th. It appears there were no additional contacts with staff. The staff member experienced mild symptoms and is recovering well.

No additional people in our custody have tested positive.

ID NOW for Staff in the Treasure Valley: Starting on Monday, **symptomatic** staff members will have the ability to call and set up an appointment to have a COVID-19 test conducted with the ID NOW instrument. Here is what you need to know:

- Testing will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at ISCI.
- Any staff member who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms with a fever can call 208-331-1195 to set up an appointment for an ID NOW test. For the most reliable test results you need to actually have a fever and be exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Your appointment will be a drive up appointment at the tent located in front of ISCI.
- When you get there do not get out of your car, a Corizon staff member will come to your car with a clipboard and a consent form. All testing is voluntary so you will be asked to sign a consent form that acknowledges you are requesting the test and that you understand that a patient relationship is not being formed between you and Corizon.
- A nasal swab will be taken and then you can head home.
- Once your sample is processed you will receive a phone call from our designated HR representative Mike Evans. He will give you the test result and be able to help you with any questions you may have related to your ability to work, leave, quarantine, contact tracing, etc.

We are grateful to be able to offer this option to staff, but we are hoping it is seldom needed.

Mass Testing at ISCC: Also on Monday, we will begin mass testing at ISCC. Today 350 sample kits were delivered to the facility and we have teams prepared to test all 258 residents of E Block. This is just the beginning of the testing that we will be undertaking. Right now we are mapping out our strategy for testing all of the residents (and the staff who want to be tested) at ISCC. Through our partnership with the VA we have the capacity to test up to 600 folks a day, so we are actively working out how we can make full use of the capacity. Staff are an important piece of that equation. The ID NOW instrument is a helpful tool for staff who are experiencing symptoms, but we are working on making testing available for any of our staff wanting a test in the very near future.

Pre-release Testing: We want to ensure that we are not releasing folks into the community without knowing their COVID status. Starting this week, we have implemented testing for all people releasing from our custody prior to their release. The tests are being conducted two to three days prior to release. We think it is important to do everything we can to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and to arm those leaving our custody with the information they need to take care of themselves and to be good community members.

It's sure been a week. Please take care of yourself, and by all means, please take precautions! The number of positive cases in the community, among our staff, and now in our system are pretty stark reminders that this isn't over by a long shot. Please stay safe, and have a great weekend.

Thanks-
Josh