

Quick Vaccine Update

March 19, 2021

Hi All-

After three consecutive weeks of our state having testing outcomes with a positivity rate less than 5%, we're starting to see an uptick in the positivity rate. Earlier today, the Idaho Legislature recessed until April 6th because of nine new COVID-19 cases being diagnosed in members and staff. It's a good reminder that we're not out of the woods just yet. But there's also some positive news: Idaho officially has more people vaccinated than have tested positive. And that's going to continue to rapidly improve. This afternoon, the Governor's Coronavirus Vaccine Advisory Committee voted to prioritize people living in congregate settings (including prisons and jails) in Group 3. This means that the entirety of our resident population will be eligible to receive the vaccine very soon. Based on the remaining prioritizations, it looks like the vaccine will be available to the general public by April 26th.

IDOC will host another vaccine clinic on March 30th in the South Boise Complex, but I want to make you aware of Governor's COVID-19 pre-registration system! No matter where you live in the state, you can go to <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/> and sign up for the vaccine. After signing up, you will be contacted with information on where you can go to receive the vaccine – some folks have received their first vaccine the same day they registered! So if you want the vaccine, this is a great resource. If you are particularly interested in receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (because it's only one shot) and you live in the Treasure Valley, we hear that the Walmart on Ten Mile Road in Meridian has a decent supply.

Last week, our testing teams were out in the eastern portion of the state and only had a handful of people test positive (and that includes staff and residents). This week, testing teams are hitting the CRCs in the Treasure Valley area, and so far we've seen similar results. This is great news!

There's also been a lot of chatter in the news about several new variants of COVID-19 being found in Idaho. If you want to learn more about how variants develop, check out this 3-minute Mayo Clinic [video](#).

Stay safe and please remember to take care of yourselves and each other.

Thanks-
Josh