

Sad news and vaccine update

Hi All-

First, some really sad news to share. This weekend, while visiting family in Utah, NICI Deputy Warden Brad Lutz suffered a medical emergency and unexpectedly passed away. Brad started working for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare as a clinician in 1996 before joining IDOC in 1999. He's served as Program Manager in addition to Deputy Warden at NICI. Brad is survived by his wife, Genny Merica, and their 4 children; Harrison, Addie, Kate and Zoe. A lot of people are hurting right now, and my heart especially aches for his family. We'll be sure to share more information about plans to honor and celebrate Brad's life when they are available. In the meantime, I hope you'll join me in sending our thoughts and prayers for strength and comfort to Brad's family, friends, and coworkers.

In other news, our clinic last Tuesday provided 143 second dose vaccines and 81 of first shots for a total of 224. The folks from Savon pharmacy will be back on **March 30th** for another vaccine clinic. Same rules apply: people can return for their second dose and first-timers are welcome. Chief of Staff Starr will send out a sign-up sheet when we get closer to March 30th.

We also know that at least 198 people have been fully vaccinated from off-site providers. As a reminder, if you submit a copy of your completed vaccine card to Mike Evans in HR, you will come off the mass testing lists and *may not* have to quarantine following an exposure. There are a number of criteria that go into the quarantine decision and HR can provide the specific guidance should you be exposed.

As more and more folks are starting to get their second shots, we're hearing that people are having a wide variety of responses. Some people are reporting no side effects while others report feeling pretty beat up, and that's exactly what the research has told us to expect. A few folks have been willing to describe their experiences on camera and that video is attached (be sure to turn your sound up).

We've also had 216 residents in the 65 and older and long-term care group receive vaccines, which includes about a dozen at our northern facilities, and around 100 at both ISCC and ISCI. We have about 40 more people in this eligibility group still to be vaccinated. On Saturday, March 6th, the state opened up vaccines for frontline workers. This group includes food service workers, janitorial staff, manufacturing workers, etc. and will likely mean additional vaccines become available for residents.

Please take care of yourselves and each other!

Thanks-
Josh