



COVID – 19 Community Update March 15, 2020 6:00 PM



Teton County Idaho officials and partnering agencies met today to create a public information and operations plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Both operations and public information staff from all agencies will be meeting daily via phone to address the latest developments surrounding the pandemic and actions needed to ensure the safety and welfare of Teton County citizens. Information from all agencies will be disseminated as soon as it becomes available.

Teton County officials and partnering agencies would like to ask that citizens do not panic and remain calm. Every measure is being taken to protect our community and the risk of infection in Eastern Idaho remains low.

COVID-19 Case Update (data provided by Idaho Governor’s Office at coronavirus.idaho.gov)

*Idaho COVID-19 public health monitoring and testing**

Total number of people monitored by Idaho public health (past & present)	48
Number of people no longer being monitored by public health	37
Number of people tested through the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories [‡]	163
Number of people tested through commercial laboratories [†]	13
Number of lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in Idaho (as of March 14, other numbers current at date and time below)	5

Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) and Teton Valley Health Care announced one confirmed case in Teton County last night. The patient is a woman who contracted the virus outside of Teton County. She is less than 60 years old and is in self-isolation experiencing mild symptoms. An investigation of her contacts since infection is currently taking place by EIPH.

General COVID-19 Guidelines

The latest guidelines suggested to keep you, your family, and the public safe during the COVID – 19 pandemic may be found by visiting:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

Agency Updates:

Teton Valley Health Care:

1. The Health and Human Services Department announced that expanded COVID-19 testing will be available in the coming week. It will first be provided to areas with the highest number of cases. Details on where Idaho fits in to that plan will be released as soon as possible.
2. Testing is currently provided to those individuals who feel they have been exposed to COVID-19 and those considered at high risk of contracted the illness.
3. The flu and RSV illnesses are increasing and consequently patients are being hospitalized at TVHC.

Teton School District 401:

1. The TSD Board of Trustees met in an emergency session on Sunday to hear the admin team's rationale for the recommendation and make the decision. The TSD Administrative team, including principals and department heads, has been working on plans to address multiple scenarios. They considered three options, including one that would keep schools open, and another that would push up spring break after a four-day closure. The team recommended Option 2, which calls for:
 - March 16-20: Students are out this week, (four days, March 16-19) plus the Teacher Grade Day (already planned for Friday, March 20). During this time, instructional staff will develop home-based learning plans, food service and custodial departments will plan for meal delivery and continue disinfecting.
 - March 23-27: Students are not at school this week. Home-based learning will begin (four days, March 23-26). Parent-teacher conferences have already been canceled (for Friday, March 27). During this week, staff support home-based learning, meal deliveries and continue disinfecting.
 - March 30-April 3: Spring break will take place as previously planned. Students and staff are off. Future needs will be evaluated on April 2.
2. Students, staff, parents, and the community will be notified regarding school for April 6 forward.
3. Home based learning plans will be communicated soon.

Mountain Academy of Teton Science School:

1. School will be held on line the week of March 16 – 20. It will be closed for the following two weeks for Spring Break and will resume on line the week of April 6.

Learning Academy:

1. As of Saturday March 14, school is closed until further notice.

Teton County:

1. Teton County Board of County Commissioners will have a special meeting at 9:00 am Monday March 16, 2020 to consider restrictions on County facilities and services and the possibility of an emergency declaration.
2. County offices will remain open for the time being but the County encourages all citizens to complete as much County business online (www.tetoncountyidaho.gov) or via phone as possible. The County is currently looking into ways to make more services available remotely.

For more information please visit tetoncountyidaho.gov, or contact Public Information Officer Holly Powers at 208-354-8775, or hpowers@co.teton.id.us.

City of Driggs:

1. City Council of the City of Driggs will hold an emergency meeting at 11:30am Monday morning to discuss current preparations and measures, and to consider an emergency declaration;
2. Driggs admin offices remain open, but staffing will be reduced to about 50%, with about 50% working remotely;

3. Driggs is asking for its patrons to utilize phone, online bill-pay (or drop box), as much as possible to limit personal contact;
4. Driggs Public Works Staff have been divided into three teams, which will work independently of each other as much as possible, so that, in the event of an infection we can isolate a team without impacting services.
5. The city will consider additional restrictions on gatherings at city facilities and announce those in coming days.

For additional information, please see the Driggs Website at www.DriggsIdaho.org, or contact Mayor Johnson at 208-354-2362 ext 2107, or MayorJohnson@DriggsIdaho.org.

City of Victor:

1. City of Victor is having an emergency City Council meeting at 7:00 pm Sunday March 15, 2020.
2. City Administration staff will be limited at city hall with few staff members on site. The City of Victor has remote options for many of the things you may need them for. Please visit the City's website for more information. <https://www.victorcityidaho.com/>
3. Public Works will remain on staff but will be required to drive individually with no passengers in vehicles to reduce possible exposure.

For more information visit victorcityidaho.gov, or contact City Administrator Olivia Goodale at 208-787-2940 x 7 or oliviag@victorcityidaho.com

City of Teton:

1. Teton City Hall may have limited office hours over the following weeks. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the payment drop box and online bill pay.

Any questions or concerns can be emailed to clerk@cityoftetonia.com or call City Hall at 208-456-2249.