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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Public Health launches hotline for questions about COVID-19**

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO- South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) has opened an information hotline for concerns about COVID-19, the novel coronavirus spreading across parts of the United States and world. **At this time, no one in Idaho has tested positive for COVID-19 and SCPHD is not monitoring anyone for the disease.**

“This hotline is open to healthcare professionals, community leaders, and residents who have questions about COVID-19,” said Melody Bowyer, SCPHD Director. “There is no reason to panic over this virus. We are well equipped to investigate and respond to any cases in our region. In the meantime, we want to make sure the public has plenty of access to accurate and factual information so they can take steps to protect their family from getting sick.”

The hotline activated at 8 a.m. this morning and will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can reach the hotline at 208-737-1138. South Central Public Health District is also actively updating information on:

- Our website: [phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus](http://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus)
- Facebook: @southcentralpublichealthdistrict
- Twitter: @scphd

You can find updated information for the state at [coronavirus.idaho.gov](http://coronavirus.idaho.gov).

“We understand that correct information is crucial when protecting your family,” said Logan Hudson, SCPHD Family and Children’s Health Division Administrator. “For now, the best thing you can do is to follow the same precautions we recommend every winter during cold and flu season.”

Those precautions include:

1. Check for recommendations from public health and watch for updates.
2. Wash your hands well and often.
3. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your elbow instead of your hand
4. Avoid contact with sick people.
5. Stay home when you are sick.

Individuals, families, businesses, schools, and communities should also review their plans in the event of an emergency, including a widespread disease outbreak. SCPHD is in the process of releasing specific guidance for each group. You can find that assistance on our website: [phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus](http://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus).

If you are concerned you have COVID-19 please call your healthcare provider and ask for guidance. Only visit a hospital emergency room if you are having a health emergency.