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**NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: March 16, 2020**

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## **Third case of novel coronavirus reported in south central Idaho**

BLAINE COUNTY – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) have confirmed a third positive case in south central Idaho of novel coronavirus.

The newly confirmed case is a female patient over the age of 50 living in Blaine County. She is recovering well in her home under isolation and was not hospitalized. This individual self-isolated as soon as she began showing symptoms. So far, investigation has not linked this case with the first two cases reported previously in Blaine County. Point of transmission is still under investigation.

The epidemiology team has been working around the clock to identify any people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 by all three confirmed cases and monitor them for symptoms.

“So far none of the people exposed to the virus by our first three cases have shown symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19,” said Hudson. “But we need people to be vigilant. If you are sick it’s a good idea to self-isolate until you are healthy again. If you are showing symptoms of this coronavirus call your doctor and ask if you should be evaluated for a test.”

South Central Public Health District is now running two hotlines for information about COVID-19. One in English at (208) 737-1138, and one in Spanish, at (208) 737-5965. These hotlines are currently running from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

SCPHD will continue to issue press releases for significant updates related to the pandemic and the first case in each new county. However, South Central Public

Health District will no longer announce individual cases of COVID-19 in Blaine County in press releases. Please refer to <https://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus> for the latest local numbers and <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/> for Idaho-specific information.