



South Central Public Health District
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www.phd5.idaho.gov



NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 16, 2020

Community spread of COVID-19 detected in Jerome County

JEROME COUNTY – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) has confirmed at least one case of novel coronavirus with no out-of-state travel and no identified contact with another person with confirmed COVID-19.

Community spread means at least one person has been infected with the virus and investigation is not able to determine how or where they became infected. The individual under investigation did not travel and had no identified contact with another person with COVID-19. **Public Health officials expect more confirmed cases in the Jerome County and urge all residents to assume the virus could be anywhere in the community.**

Based on recent guidance from Idaho Health and Welfare, investigation into counties with confirmed community spread will now include limited contact investigation. Only close contacts that are considered high-risk by the CDC, or live in the same household, will be actively monitored by a member of public health. A close contact is someone who has spent at least 10 minutes within six feet of someone showing symptoms.

South Central Public Health District is 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.

Please refer to <https://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus> for the latest local numbers and <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/> for Idaho-specific information and guidance.