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## **NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact:

# **Community spread of COVID-19 detected in Twin Falls County, SCPHD announces changes to investigation process**

TWIN FALLS COUNTY – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) have confirmed more than 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 in an area who is not sure how or where they became infected. These individuals 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 community.

“We’ve already seen this in several counties in Idaho. It is safe to assume the virus could be anywhere in our community,” said Melody Bowyer, SCPHD Director. “Social distancing becomes even more critical in times like this. We have to work together as a community to slow the spread of this virus.”

Based on recent guidance from Idaho Health and Welfare, investigation into counties with confirmed community spread will now include limited contact investigation.

“This means we will only be reaching out to warn close contacts that are considered high-risk by the CDC or live in the same household,” said Tanis Maxwell, SCPHD epidemiologist. “For the rest of the community, we urge you to take precautions in all public areas. Stay home whenever possible to help slow the spread.”

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, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

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