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**NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: August 13, 2020**

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## **Health District Releases Risk Assessment for Local Counties**

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – The South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) has released COVID-19 community risk assessments for each county in the south central Idaho region. These assessments are based on the Regional Risk Level Plan the SCPHD Board of Health approved on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Two counties, Blaine and Camas, are in the minimal-risk category. Four counties, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, and Twin Falls, are in the moderate-risk category. Two counties, Cassia and Minidoka, are in the high-risk category. No counties are currently rated in the critical-risk category.

Risk category definitions, recommended mitigation strategies, and basic metric information for each county is available at <https://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus>. These risk assessments will be updated every other Thursday unless emergency conditions, laid out in the Regional Risk Level Plan, require a mid-stage update.

No matter the risk category, public health officials urge all residents to take extra precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes practicing social distancing at all times, wearing a mask in public places, washing hands frequently, sanitizing commonly touched surfaces regularly, and isolating immediately if you begin showing symptoms of any virus.

South Central Public Health District is running two COVID-19 informational hotlines, one in English at (208) 737-1138, and one in Spanish, at (208) 737-5965. These hotlines are currently running from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 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.