

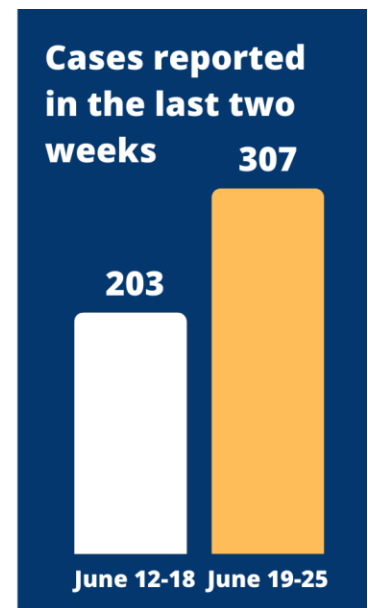
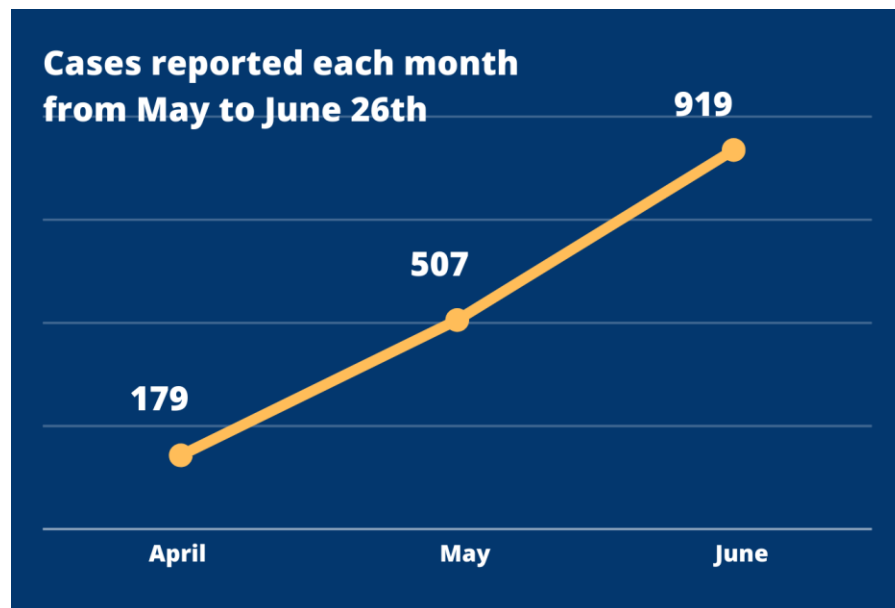
**NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: June 28th, 2022

## **COVID-19 vaccine appointments available for children six months and older. Cases increasing across the region.**

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) is now scheduling COVID-19 vaccine appointments for anyone six months and older. This opportunity arrives as case counts continue to increase across the region.

“Many parents have reached out to us over the last few months, anxious for the chance to vaccinate their young children,” said Melody Bowyer, SCPHD District Director. “As we see cases in our area rise once again, we are grateful for the chance to offer another tool to help protect our community.”



Data from the last three months show cases in the region are steadily increasing, especially in the last two weeks. These data only include cases reported by approved medical professionals,

and do not include at-home tests. This means, the case count in our region is likely several times higher than the number officially reported.

“This latest wave of cases has been less severe than we’ve seen in the past. This is great news for our region and residents. Unfortunately, we are still seeing cases of long-COVID in residents and complications among the more vulnerable.” said Logan Hudson, SCPHD Division Administrator. “It is still important to get vaccinated against this disease, especially if you are vulnerable or will spend time with anyone who is more vulnerable to complications from the virus.”

The COVID-19 vaccine for children six months to four years old will be given in series of three doses. Parents should not expect full protection from the vaccine until two weeks after the last dose.

SCPHD is currently accepting appointments for all people six months and older for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at its clinic locations in Bellevue, Gooding, Heyburn, Jerome, and Twin Falls. SCPHD is also helping coordinate distribution of the vaccine to healthcare partners within its jurisdiction of Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties.

Appointments at SCPHD can be made by calling Immunization Services at 208-737-5966. For COVID-19 vaccine availability outside of SCPHD, please contact your pediatrician or primary health care provider.

SCPHD continues to operate hotlines to help answer questions about COVID-19: one in Spanish, at (208) 737-5965, and one in English at (208) 737-1138. The hotline is open on business days from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.