

NEWS

For Immediate Release

August 7, 2020

Board of Health August 11 meeting agenda and draft order language available for review; consideration to close gyms removed from draft order

At their regular weekly meeting held on Tuesday, August 4, Central District Health's (CDH) Board of Health discussed the potential for additional modifications to slow the spread of COVID-19 in two of its four-county jurisdiction which includes Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties.

Requests were made around further limiting group gathering sizes and closing gyms in Ada County, and initiating a separate county-wide mandatory face covering order for Valley County.

Group Gatherings

A recent White House report for Idaho that put the state in the 'red zone' based several factors and data points, made specific recommendations to limit social gathering sizes to 10 or fewer people and close gyms, among other strategies. Through a review of case investigations, CDH disease investigators have determined that gatherings such as birthday parties, weddings, backyard barbeques, and similar social gatherings have been, and continue to be, a common source of transmission. As such, the Board will consider language to prohibit social gatherings, of *either* more than ten *or* more than twenty-five. Currently, the Ada County order prohibits both public and private gatherings of 50 or more; that limitation would remain in effect. At its next [virtual] meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at 4 pm, the Board will discuss new draft language for definition and restriction of social gatherings, which can be found at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/about-boardofhealth-meetings.php>.

Gyms Removed from Draft Order

Closing gyms was also a specific recommendation from the White House report for Idaho counties in the 'red zone,' prompting the Board's request for draft order language for further consideration; however, gyms in Ada County have not been found to be a significant source of

transmission to date, and the consideration for the closure of gyms has been removed from the draft order.

Valley County Face Coverings to be Considered

What would be a new, separate order for Valley County to include a face covering mandate in public places is now available in draft form for review on the CDH website at <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/about-boardofhealth-meetings.php>.

Board of Health Meeting Information, Draft Order Language, and Public Comment

The Board of Health meets virtually every Tuesday at 4 pm and meetings are streamed live on [YouTube](#) for public viewing. Once meetings are complete, videos are retained on the CDH YouTube page. Written comments can be submitted to the Board up to 24-hours in advance of their meetings by email at boh@cdh.idaho.gov or mailed to CDH, Attn: Russ Duke/BOH, 707 N. Armstrong Pl., Boise, ID 83704.

All agendas and Board of Health documents are posted to the Board meetings web page at: <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/about-boardofhealth-meetings.php>. A copy of the Board's meeting schedule, modified on August 4, 2020, can also be found on this page.

CDH's Board first approved the public health order for Ada County on June 24, 2020. To read the latest order, a timeline of activity, and Frequently Asked Questions, visit <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus-order.php>.

#

Media Contacts:

Christine Myron, Public Information Officer
Cell 208.871.1712 | cmyron@cdh.idaho.gov

Brandon Atkins, Program Manager / Public Information Specialist
Cell 208. 559.2839 | batkins@cdh.idaho.gov