



Dear School Administrators,

As you prepare for the 2021-2022 upcoming school year, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information on how Southwest District Health will support you during this school year as it pertains to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

Southwest District Health advises schools utilize current CDC recommendations to guide their decisions. Southwest District Health will not issue requirements and cannot close schools. School District Boards are responsible for making decisions regarding health and safety requirements within their respective schools.

Southwest District Health is available to assist our six-county region when requested and will support school districts in the following ways:

- Share and interpret CDC recommendations
- Provide infection prevention recommendations
- Provide local data and analysis of current disease threats in our communities
- Investigate confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 and encourage self-isolation
- Notify close contacts that meet school district exclusion criteria
- Monitor cases and contacts throughout the duration of their isolation/quarantine period
- Confirm staff and student COVID-19 test results and coordinate with school nursing staff on isolation and quarantine timelines that align with school district policies
- Offer testing and vaccination resources

Please visit our website <https://phd3.idaho.gov> for more updated information as the year progresses. This is a great resource for you to receive local information and data to assist in your decision making.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Infection Prevention Epidemiologist, Lekshmi Rita Venugopal at 208-593-1413 or lekshmi.venugopal@phd3.idaho.gov.

We greatly appreciate the support we received during the previous school year and hope to continue the collaboration this coming school year. Our focus continues to be providing accurate information about vaccine safety, explaining the risk of COVID-19 exposure, and communicating the steps individuals can take to lessen their risk for exposure and illness so members of our community can make informed decisions about their health.

In best health,

Nikole Zogg, PhD, MPH
Director

Healthier Together

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