



Press Release - For Immediate Release

September 1, 2021 1:00 PM

- **Governor Little’s statement regarding the state of hospital ICU’s throughout the state**
- **Vaccine Clinic to be held at the Teton County Courthouse Thursday, September 2**
- **Testing availability**

GOVERNOR LITTLE REPORTS ON HOSPITAL STATUS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Governor Brad Little announced yesterday that he is “Calling in 220 medical workers available through federal programs and mobilizing 150 Idaho National Guard soldiers to deal with a surge in unvaccinated COVID-19 patients who are overwhelming the state's hospitals.”

The Governor made this announcement after touring an Idaho Intensive Care Unit where he witnessed patients in the ICU with a wide range of ages (average age 41) who were struggling to breathe and in need of a significant amount of care. All patients were unvaccinated.

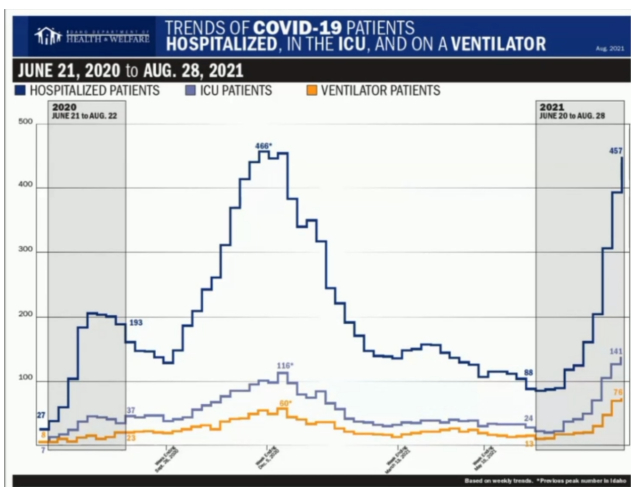
Governor Little explained that, "We are dangerously close to activating statewide crisis standards of care, a historic step that means Idahoans in need of healthcare could receive a lesser standard of care or may be turned away altogether."

The last week has seen about 1,000 newly confirmed cases per day, most of them unvaccinated persons.

Governor Little continued, "Idaho hospitals are beyond constrained. Our healthcare system is designed to deal with the everyday realities of life. Our healthcare system is not designed to withstand the prolonged strain caused by an unrestrained global pandemic. It's simply not sustainable."

Little says only four adult intensive care unit beds were available in the entire state on Tuesday (August 31, 2021).

Governor Little closed by stating, “I hope it will be enough for us to avoid statewide crisis standards of care, but we are teetering on the brink and there is only one real solution – we need more Idahoans to choose to receive the safe, effective COVID-19 vaccine now,” Governor Little said.



The graph to the left from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare demonstrates the current state of COVID hospitalizations, COVID patients in the ICU and on a ventilator in Idaho. We are currently exceeding the peak of both COVID patients in the ICU and those on ventilators since the beginning of the pandemic and are expected to exceed the previous peak of COVID patients hospitalized within the next few days.



To view the Governor's video and full article please visit:

<https://localnews8.com/health/coronavirus/2021/08/31/gov-little-to-make-announcement-regarding-covid-19-in-idaho/>

VACCINE CLINIC TO BE HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 FROM 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM FOR ANYONE OVER 12 YEARS OLD

Teton County welcomes anyone over 12 years old who is unvaccinated or needs a second dose to come to a free vaccine clinic held at the Teton County Courthouse from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm. Moderna and Pfizer vaccines will be available at no cost.

Teton Valley Health offers vaccinations on a walk-in basis at their Driggs clinic from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Tuesdays through Friday.

TESTING AVAILABILITY

Teton Valley Health is operating their drive-through COVID tests Tuesday through Friday at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm and require an appointment that can be made by calling the hospital at 208-354-6317 x102.

COVID tests are also available at TVH Clinics with a medical provider appointment, based on the provider's recommendation. There is a visit charge for this option. Please call 208-354-6323 to schedule an appointment.

Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) has a supply of VAULT at-home COVID-19 tests available to individuals free of charge. This PCR test involves an individual collecting his/her own saliva with the virtual assistance of a VAULT medical observer. The sample is then mailed to a laboratory in a postage paid envelope that is provided with the test kit. Electronic test results are generally available within 24-72 hours. The VAULT tests are available in each of EIPH's offices. If you are in need of a test, please call (208) 533-3219 and talk with EIPH staff for instructions BEFORE reporting to an EIPH office to pick up a test. In addition, the VAULT tests can be requested by calling the Idaho Careline at 2-1-1 and the test will be mailed to your home.

New information will be published as soon as it is available. For all COVID-19 information, please visit:

<https://coronavirus-response-tetonidaho.hub.arcgis.com/>

Thank you for doing your part to protect our community.

Teton Valley Strong!