



# Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management



## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

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Greetings from the Kootenai County Emergency Operations Center and the Panhandle Health District. We are reaching out to tell the citizens of Kootenai County how proud and appreciative we are of your commitment and sacrifice, and to inform you that your efforts are proving effective here in Kootenai County.

It goes without saying these are unprecedented times. Our patterns have been disrupted and our lives have been altered on a monumental and historical scale. Unemployment nationally is at a record high, schools are closed, nonessential travel has been restricted, and a “Stay-Home” order has been issued by Governor Little.

We are all affected by this pandemic, but here in Kootenai County our forbearance is contributing to a rate of spread that, compared to many other areas throughout Idaho, is significantly lower. Currently, we have 36 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Kootenai County and one in Bonner County. This places our confirmed infection rate at 0.02% of our population compared to some areas within Idaho that have a rate of 1.41%. We believe our rate of spread has been impacted by your pledge to adhere to the guidelines issued by Governor Little and the tireless work of our medical professionals and first responders.

Although our numbers have remained low, this could change rapidly and we encourage everyone to continue to practice the social distancing and stay-home order that our Governor and health officials have provided. We know these mitigation strategies can slow the spread of this virus, but we need everyone to participate to make it work.

Again, thank you to everyone who is adhering to the “Stay-Home” order and protecting themselves and our most vulnerable population. Hopefully, soon we will defeat the Coronavirus and see a return to our “normal” way of life.

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