

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Additional establishments identified as potential COVID-19 exposure locations; illness cluster involving downtown Boise bar-goers increases

BOISE, IDAHO – Through recent COVID-19 investigations, Central District Health (CDH) has identified four individuals who spent time in public locations, in close proximity to others while unknowingly infectious. Because of this, CDH wants to let the public know of the locations and dates these individuals were present, and encourage anyone there on the same date to watch for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, which may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

- Matador, (downtown) Boise, ID – Bar top only area only – Exposure Date: 6/7/20
 - *Monitor for symptoms through 6/21/20*
- Vista Bar, Boise, ID - Exposure Date: 6/9/2020
 - *Monitor for symptoms through 6/23/20*
- 9th Street Nook, Boise, ID – Exposure Date: 6/10/2020
 - *Monitor for symptoms through 6/24/20*
- The Breakaway Café & Spirits, Meridian, ID – Bar top area only - Exposure Date: 6/13/2020
 - *Monitor for symptoms through 6/27/20*

If you were at one of these establishments on a date and in an area identified, CDH advises you to be aware of any development of symptoms, including, fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell. If you experience any COVID-like symptoms, you should contact your healthcare provider.

CDH is providing information on public exposure locations in situations where an infectious individual had close contact with multiple, unidentified people, and where direct communication with potentially exposed individuals is not possible.

"We recognize and commend businesses who are working hard to reduce risks for patrons and staff, but we know the reality is that some of our community members are becoming infected with COVID-19 and showing no symptoms or initially experiencing mild symptoms, and they're out in public unintentionally exposing others. These could be our friends or family, so each of us needs to be accountable and maintain heightened awareness. We must take every measure we can to protect ourselves and others which means limiting potential exposures, consistently wearing masks, and practicing physical distancing," said Russ Duke, District Director for Central District Health.

Illness cluster grows among 6th and Main Street bar patrons; potential exposure dates added

The illness cluster among individuals who reported visiting multiple downtown Boise bars the evenings of June 5 and 6 while infectious has increased from an initial 10 cases to 34 confirmed cases and 3 probable cases. With additional case interviews underway, CDH anticipates more associated cases. To date, most individuals in this illness cluster report mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms. While most individuals have been in their 20s and 30s, there have also been some associated cases among household contacts of those originally infected. Additionally, CDH has identified people who have become ill who indicate they were present at one of the identified bars the weekend of June 12 and 13.

Those who were at the identified bars in the area of 6th and Main Streets in Downtown Boise during the evening hours of June 5, 6, 12 or 13, are encouraged to watch for the potential development of symptoms for 14 days after the date of their potential exposure. If you experience any COVID-like symptoms, contact your healthcare provider. The individuals in this cluster report they visited the following locations:

- Amsterdam Lounge – 609 W. Main St., Boise
- Cactus Bar – 517 W. Main St., Boise
- Humpin' Hannah's – 621 Main St., Boise
- Silly Birch – 507 W. Main St., Boise
- StrangeLove – 100 S. 6th St., Boise
- Tom Grainey's – 109 S. 6th St., Boise

Continued COVID-19 risk reduction strategies should include:

- Staying home if sick, even when symptoms are mild.
- Practicing physical-distancing (maintaining at least 6 feet between individuals).
- Wearing a cloth face covering or mask when in public settings where physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer.

COVID-19 case counts for Ada, Boise, Elmore, and Valley Counties, which are served by CDH, are updated weekdays by 5 pm unless otherwise noted on the CDH website, <https://www.cdh.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus>. Weekly data points are updated Mondays and Thursdays by noon.

The CDH Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm with Spanish speaking representatives available: 208-321-2222.

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