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NEWS RELEASE--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Public Health Board Approves Risk Category Guidelines for Region

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – Today the South Central Public Health District Board of Health approved COVID-19 risk categories and mitigation recommendations for communities in south central Idaho.

"This guidance will help our elected leaders, our school districts, our businesses, and our residents understand risk levels in their counties," said Linda Montgomery, Board of Health Chair. "We all have a part to play in protecting the most vulnerable in our communities and these risk levels can help us each make responsible decisions to protect against this disease."

SCPHD will release risk levels for Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties on phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus every other week on Thursdays. The first issue of these risk levels will be posted in the next seven days. Risk categories, explanations, and possible mitigation strategies are provided on the same web page.

"The health district has provided mitigation strategies for each risk level," said Melody Bowyer. "These strategies aren't just for board members, they are guidelines for everyone in our counties to help prevent the spread of COVID-19."

No matter the risk category, public health officials urge all residents to take extra precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes practicing social distancing at all times, wearing a mask in public places, washing hands frequently, sanitizing commonly touched surfaces regularly, and isolating immediately if you begin showing symptoms of any virus.

South Central Public Health District is running two COVID-19 informational hotlines, one in English at (208) 737-1138, and one in Spanish, at (208) 737-5965. These hotlines are currently running from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Please refer to <a href="https://phd5.idaho.gov/coronavirus">https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/</a> for Idaho-specific information.