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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 4, 2021 Contact: Mimi Taylor Office: (208) 521-6722

Orders of Restriction Lifted in Custer and Jefferson Counties; Bonneville County Pending; Vaccine Scheduling for People 65 Years of Age and Older

(Eastern Idaho) – The Board of Health at Eastern Idaho Public Health (EIPH) met this morning, Thursday, February 4, and determined that both Custer and Jefferson Counties had met the criteria (daily COVID-19 case average below 15 cases/10,000 people for 14 consecutive days) to be lowered to the Minimal Risk (green) Level. Thus, the Orders of Restriction for the mandatory wearing of face coverings were lifted for both counties. If Bonneville County remains under the threshold through the weekend, their Order will be lifted at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, February 8. Although these Orders are being lifted, now is not the time to ease up on COVID-19 precautions. We continue to encourage people to stay home when sick, wash their hands frequently, maintain space (at least 6 feet) between people, and when not able to distance, wear a mask correctly and consistently.

The COVID-19 vaccine became available to individuals 65 years of age and older on Monday, February 1. We began scheduling appointments last weekend and identified areas that needed improvement. We listened to community feedback and made some revisions and now feel we have implemented a process that will be easier and less stressful for all involved.

To make COVID vaccination appointments scheduling as simple as possible and to provide equitable distribution of vaccine, EIPH will assign available vaccination appointments randomly to all individuals who register on our waiting list BEFORE Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. Over the course of the following 10 days, appointments will be assigned to individuals and EIPH WILL CALL OR TEXT TO INFORM INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR APPOINTMENT, which could range from February 15 through the end of March. To allow us time to make all these notifications, we would ask that you NOT call our office before February 22 to check on your appointment. Thank you for your patience with this process.

If you register on the waiting list AFTER February 11 at 8:00 a.m., you can expect a call or text from EIPH between February 22-26 to notify you of your assigned appointment. If you previously signed up for our notification list, there is nothing else you need to do at this time. If you would like to get on our list, please go to our website at <u>www.EIPH.Idaho.gov</u> or call 208-533-3223 for assistance.