

**THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF IDAHO  
BOISE**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-11**

**ACTIVATION OF THE IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD TO PROVIDE SUPPORT  
IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

---

*WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Idahoans is the greatest priority of our state and its leaders; and*

*WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has labeled the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic that poses a serious public health threat; and*

*WHEREAS, as of August 30, 2021, there have been over 39 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and approximately 639,000 deaths in the United States and 220,163 confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 and 2,331 deaths in Idaho due to COVID-19; and*

*WHEREAS, rapid community spread has caused some local hospitals to significantly reduce operations to protect its health care workers and caused patients to have to travel or be transported into other counties to be treated for COVID-19 or other illnesses and injuries; and*

*WHEREAS, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is currently the predominant strain in the United State and Idaho. This variant is more infectious and transmissible when compared to previous variants. Vaccines remain the safest and most effective mitigation tool against COVID-19, including the Delta variant; and*

*WHEREAS, Idaho's case rate and positivity rate are increasing. As a result, 55 percent of Idaho hospitals are currently reporting stresses on their operations and 62 percent of hospitals are reporting stress due to overall staffing issues. As of August 28, 2021, 500 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 and 155 people were in intensive care. Idaho's rural communities are particularly at risk because of limited health care capacity and staff; and*

*WHEREAS, due to the increase in COVID-19 patients, some hospitals are diverting patients to other hospitals within the state and, in some instances, to neighboring states. Hospitals in surrounding states are also experiencing a surge of COVID-19 cases and may not be able to receive Idaho patients; and*

*WHEREAS, the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Idaho has put a significant strain on health care workers, resulting in staffing shortages across the State. Without health care workers and support staff, hospitals are not able to utilize their full capacity; and*

*WHEREAS, the Idaho Military Division is committed to maintaining domestic emergency response readiness in the Idaho National Guard and guiding the state, through the Office of Emergency Management, in effectively preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all hazards; and*

*WHEREAS, Idaho is committed to being prepared and protecting Idahoans from COVID-19. There continues to be a risk to life and the continued operation of public infrastructure as a result of cases of COVID-19 throughout the State of Idaho, and the activation of the Idaho National Guard will assist in our State's battle against this deadly virus.*

*WHEREAS, on August 17, 2021, I declared an emergency in the state of Idaho due to the ongoing occurrence and imminent threat to public health and safety arising from the effects of COVID-19; and*

*NOW, THEREFORE L Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state do hereby order:*

- 1. The activation of members of the Idaho National Guard pursuant to Idaho Code § 46-1008(4) in*

*order to protect life from the occurrence of, and imminent threat from, COVID-19. Up to 150 National Guardsmen are ordered on State Active Duty for a period of thirty (30) days to provide additional support to the State of Idaho in its emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- 2. Funding for the activation of National Guardsmen pursuant to this Executive Order will initially be provided from the Disaster Emergency Account established in Idaho Code § 46-1005A and made available to the state in accordance with Idaho Code § 46-1008(5)(b).*
- 3. The Adjutant General of Idaho is authorized to direct activated Idaho Guardsmen as necessary to assist in efforts to respond to and combat the COVID-19 pandemic in Idaho.*
- 4. This Executive Order will remain in effect unless rescinded or amended in writing by the Governor.*



*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capital in Boise on this 31st day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one.*

**BRAD LITTLE**  
**GOVERNOR**

**LAWRENCE DENNEY**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**