

THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF IDAHO
BOISE**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-02

**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 January 7, 2022, there have been over 57 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and approximately 829,740 deaths in the United States and 325,730 confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19 and 4,223 deaths in Idaho due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, rapid community spread has caused some local hospitals to have 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. Idaho's rural communities are particularly at risk because of limited health care capacity and staff; and

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

WHEREAS, cases in Idaho have risen sharply in the past several weeks. As a result, hospitals across the state of Idaho are at or nearing capacity. 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 January 7th, 2022, 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 I 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. Seventy-five National Guardsmen will provide additional support to the State of Idaho for 30 days under Title 32 status, in the ongoing emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

2. *This order is essential to protect life or property from the occurrence or imminent threat of the state of disaster emergency threatening the safety of persons or property within the state. This order is narrowly tailored and places no restrictions on the ability to work, provide for one's family, or otherwise contribute to the economy of the State of Idaho.*
3. *The Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse the Department of Defense for all associated cost for Idaho's National Guardsmen response under Title 32.*
4. *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.*
5. *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 Capitol in Boise on this 31st day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE