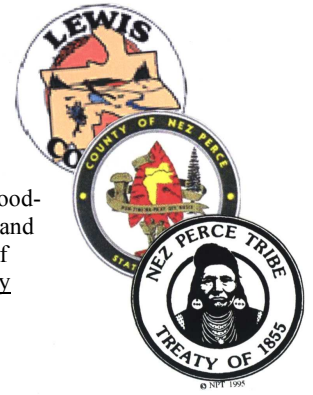
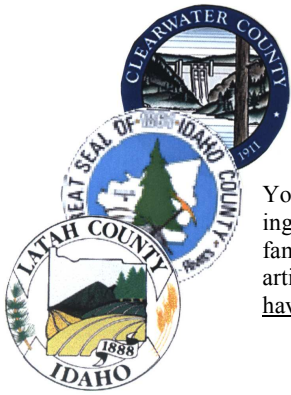


Get Pandemic Ready



Your Office of Emergency Management plans and prepares for disasters, ranging from localized flooding to worldwide events. Preparation includes local government, the private sector and individuals and families. Pandemic flu is a rapidly emerging threat affecting all of us. The purpose of this series of articles is to inform citizens of what they can do to protect themselves. We recommend each family have three months of food, water, medications, and other supplies on-hand.

Issue 4: Why 3 months of preps ?

When a pandemic outbreak occurs, the virus can be circulating in our communities for up to three months. Without vaccines, and limited antivirals, the only way to be certain of surviving is to avoid infection. Realistically, the best we can do is minimize our chances of infection. Two successful strategies are used to protect ourselves: shelter-in-place and the use of personal protective equipment (a future newsletter). Shelter-in-place (or self-quarantine) means to stay in your home as much as possible, for the duration of a local outbreak. Why three months of preps?

- To reduce your need to go out in public during a pandemic.
- To reduce your chances of bringing infection back into your home.
- To be able to care for yourself and your family even when food, water, and medicines are scarce.
- You'll have your own personal savings account. If you start now, you'll be ahead of the price inflation already taking place. You'll also avoid any price gouging on essential items that may occur closer to an actual outbreak.
- To avoid any public chaos that may occur during a pandemic.

You may have noticed in issue #3 (Pandemic Preparedness Mindset), that “the government will take care of me” was NOT included. This omission was intentional, and consistent with Department of Homeland Security statements:

“Local communities will have to address the medical and non-medical effects of the pandemic with available resources. This means that it is essential for communities, tribes, States, and regions to have plans in place to support the full spectrum of their needs over the course of weeks or months...” National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza

“The population may be directed to remain in their homes under **self-quarantine** for up to 90 days per wave of the outbreak to support social distancing practices.” Pandemic Influenza: Best Practices and Model Protocols

The “pandemic flu information” website tidily sums this topic up:

Home is safe.

Stock your home.

You can have plenty of food and water there.

You can avoid germs there.

You can have an oasis in the midst of the storm. Buy supplies for your home now, and it will be a safe place for you.

Home is good.

Yes it is.

For more information, or to participate in local pandemic flu planning, contact your local Emergency Manager.

Contact #'s
Clearwater County Emergency Management 476-4064
Idaho County Emergency Management 983-3074
Latah County Disaster Services 883-2265
Lewis County Emergency Management 937-2380
Nez Perce County Emergency Management 799-3084
Nez Perce Tribe ERWM 843-7375 ext. 2377