



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Idaho Public Health Districts**

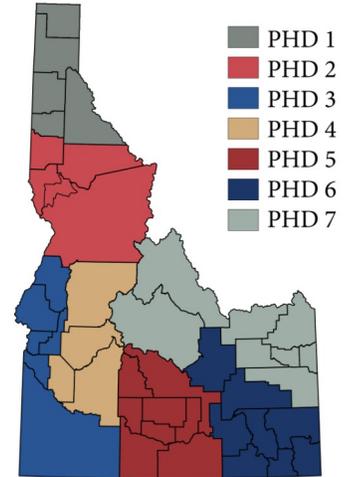
# Idaho Public Health Districts

September 2013

The members of the Association of Public Health District Directors appreciate how many issues you face daily and want you to know that we are available as your point of contact for prominent issues relevant to local public health. We will provide you an overview of several public health issues in a monthly newsletter.

For the initial issue we have provided an overview of the origin, organization, and governance of Idaho's health districts. Future issues will address topics such as food fees, Medicaid expansion, communicable disease outbreaks, prevention programs, and other pertinent public health matters.

If you would like additional information about any of the issues presented in this newsletter, or have suggestions of issues you would like covered, please contact the District Director in your area. Remember, everything we do is about health.



## Idaho's Local Public Health Districts

Idaho's Legislature divided the state into seven public health districts in 1970 so citizens of all 44 counties have access to preventive public health services. The single-purpose districts are designed like school and highway districts to provide local control and governance. Public Health Districts are described in Title 39 Health & Safety Code as independent bodies, governed by local Boards of Health.

County Commissioners in each district appoint a Board of Health that:

- Sets district policies
- Defines services based on local needs
- Appoints a director to manage daily activities

Seven to nine people compose the Board of Health. They serve staggered five-year terms.

Services vary by health district needs but fit into six broad areas:

- Epidemiology/Communicable Disease Control
- Health Education
- Physical Health
- Environmental Health
- Public Health Preparedness
- Public Health Administration

In FY2013, the health districts' funding sources included:

- State General Fund—16%
- Counties in the District—16%
- Contracts—46%
- Fees and Miscellaneous—22%

Public Health's mission is to prevent disease, disability and premature death; to promote healthy lifestyles; and to protect the health and quality of the environment. Examples of just a few of the programs and services provided by the health districts include:

- WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Nutrition program
- tobacco cessation services
- teen pregnancy prevention
- breast and cervical cancer screenings for uninsured/underinsured, low-income women
- immunizations for children and adults
- West Nile Virus tracking and prevention education
- food and water protection (permitting and inspecting food establishments, subsurface sewage systems, and public water systems)

*For more information on the services provided by the health district in your area, contact your local Health District Director (information below).*

## HEALTHY PEOPLE IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

PANHANDLE HEALTH DISTRICT (1)	PUBLIC HEALTH - IDAHO NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT (2)	SOUTHWEST DISTRICT HEALTH (3)	CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH (4)	SOUTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (5)	SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH (6)	EASTERN IDAHO PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT (7)
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