



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE



Public Health
Idaho North Central District



CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE **EXPLAINED**

CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE (CSC) HAS BEEN ACTIVATED STATEWIDE IN IDAHO.

CSC has been activated statewide by the Department of Health and Welfare, but the hospitals will implement according to their own policies and available resources. Each hospital will make patient care decisions based on the current situation at the hospital guided by Crisis Standards of Care.

Crisis Standards of Care is a last resort. It means that the number of patients needing care is more than the amount of resources (e.g. space, equipment, etc.) available.

What does this mean for you?

This is serious; your ability to receive care in a hospital will likely be affected. It may look very different than how you have received care in the past. Surgeries are being postponed, emergency departments are full, and there may not be any beds for patients to be admitted to the hospital.

What should you do?

The crisis in our healthcare system is being caused by the massive influx of COVID-19 patients who need hospitalization. Get vaccinated. It is safe and effective, and it is the best defense we have against COVID-19. More than 91 percent of people hospitalized for COVID-19 in Idaho are not fully vaccinated.

If you need emergency care, go to the emergency room. Do not avoid care. Hospitals will work hard to make sure you receive appropriate care.

When a hospital implements Crisis Standards of Care, it could mean:

- Receiving care in a hospital room that was previously used as a classroom, or in a hallway or a tent.
- Fewer nurses and doctors taking care of more patients.
- Waiting many hours for care or being transferred to a hospital that could be hours away for your care.
- Not being prioritized for the limited resources (such as a bed or a ventilator) or treatments available. In other words, patients with a greater likelihood of surviving their illness may be given a critical care bed or ventilator over patients less likely to survive.

For more information on Crisis Standards of Care, visit healthandwelfare.idaho.gov.

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