



**House of Representatives**  
**STATE OF IDAHO**  
**CAPITOL BUILDING**  
P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, ID 83720-0038

IDAHO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Additional Safety Precautions for 2021 Session

**Physical Safety Improvements**

1. Social distancing in committee rooms: Committee room seating has been reconfigured and seating capacity has been revised to allow social distancing for committee members and the public. Remote committee testimony for members of the public is contingent upon each chamber's approval of the use of remote testimony. (See IT Improvements later in this document.)
2. Plexiglas shields: Desk-mounted plexiglas shields are available in chambers and committee rooms, upon members' request. These are three-sided and extend to a height of about six feet from the floor. Legislative staff have also had the opportunity to request desk shields, and many are using this option.
3. Masks:
  - a. All LSO staff are required to wear masks while outside their individual offices. They are also required to wear masks while meeting with someone in their offices. Meetings with LSO staff can be conducted via telephone or video conference. If those options are not practicable, meetings can be arranged in larger conference rooms that allow for social distancing. Masks are required to enter LSO office space.
  - b. Disposable masks are provided free throughout the building and will be available during the 2021 session at entrances to each committee room and chamber viewing galleries. Disposable masks will also be available at tables placed elsewhere throughout the Statehouse.
4. Dealing with the public, the press, and lobbyists in the Statehouse: Closing the Statehouse to the public is not an option. As previously indicated, seating capacity in committee rooms has been revised to allow for social distancing. Legislators may meet with the press and with lobbyists via telephone, virtually or as they deem appropriate.

5. Statehouse HVAC system: As suggested by the Department of Health and Welfare and the Division of Building Safety (DPW), the Statehouse HVAC system is now pulling in the maximum amount of fresh air possible and is running on a 24-hour basis to achieve maximum air exchange.
6. Air purifiers and other filtration. Approximately 150 HEPA air purifiers have been installed throughout the building—in offices, committee rooms, conference rooms, lounges, etc. These purifiers are rated to provide 99.9% particle removal. In addition, the Department of Administration is replacing standard efficiency filters with high-efficiency filters (MERV 13) wherever existing conditions will allow. These changes are taking place in all committee rooms, both House and Senate chambers, and JFAC. The common areas, including the rotunda/hallways, etc., will be fitted with these high-efficiency filters as well. Certain office spaces and meeting rooms have installed UV purification systems.
7. Hand sanitizer stations. Hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout the Statehouse and can be found in high-traffic areas such as entrances to each committee room, at elevator doors on each floor, and in hallways throughout the building.
8. Decision tree for potential exposure to virus. Each body has received a “decision tree” from Central District Health reflecting protocols for individuals who may have had a positive test, have virus symptoms, had close contact with an infected person, or are feeling ill. The decision tree provides guidance regarding what to do in specific instances, including exposure to a confirmed case, when to isolate or quarantine, etc.

### **Information Technology improvements to facilitate public access**

1. Remote public testimony: Remote testimony for members of the public is possible in committee hearings. Subject to each chamber’s approval to use remote testimony, members of the public may sign up remotely and testify remotely.
2. Closed captioning: All committee hearings and all floor sessions will be closed-captioned for the first time during the 2021 session. This provides accessibility to the deaf and hard of hearing community to observe legislative work and will likely help others as well.
3. Overflow rooms: When capacity is reached in committee rooms, overflow viewing may be available in other rooms.
4. Committee meeting video: For the first time, all committee rooms have the capability of streaming both audio and video. The addition of video enhances access for the public beyond audio-only streaming.