

## KRLC FM & AM

### Issues and Programs

For the Quarter Ending 31 December 2020

#### ISSUES

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**THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS:** Coronavirus infections surged during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, leading to more deaths, and more restrictions.

Providing the latest updates of from local health districts continued. Data from Public Health Idaho North Central District on the latest fatalities and case counts in the 5 counties of North Central Idaho, with similar updates from the Whitman County, Asotin County, and Garfield County Public Health Districts. Approximately :20-:50 in length, these updates aired on local newscasts.

Data for the case counts and deaths in the State of Idaho were updated at 5p MST daily on [coronavirus.idaho.gov](https://coronavirus.idaho.gov), the state's website dedicated to the pandemic. The previous day's data was update in approx. :20-:30 stories airing mornings of the following day.

On 10/2, local news contained an approx. 1:00 story on Governor Brad Little's announcement that the state will stay in the final phase of its re-opening plan for another 2 weeks, and new rapid COVID-19 tests being shipped to the state. Running 4x in AM news. On 10/15, amid rising cases numbers, aired a local news story in which Governor Little announced the state would spend an additional two weeks in the final phase of its re-opening plan. The approx. 1:00 story aired in the evening local news, and twice in the 10/16 AM local news. On 10/26 Aired an approx. 1:00 story on Governor Brad Little announcing the state is returning to a modified Stage 3 of its re-opening plan, limiting the size of gatherings inside and outside, with distancing requirements for all gatherings. Running twice in PM news, 3x in AM 10-27 news. And on 11/13, aired an approx. 1:20 story with remarks from Governor Brad Little as he announced a roll-back to Phase 2 of the state's re-opening plan, running twice in PM news. On 12/10

Governor Brad raised the prospect of rationed health care if the coronavirus surge continues unchecked in a press conference . The approx. :55 story running twice in PM news, twice in AM 12/11 news.

Governor Little talked about coronavirus matters during telephone townhalls sponsored by AARP-Idaho, which were held bi-monthly during the quarter. Both the governor and other state officials, usually Health and Welfare Director Dave Jeppessen, answered caller's questions about the pandemic. Local newscasts had brief reminders that reminded listeners of the townhall, directing them to the Inland Northwest News Facebook page for the toll-free to listen in and ask questions.

10/7 Aired an approx. :30 story on Governor Jay Inslee announcing an easing of some COVID-19 guidelines in Washington's Safe Start program. Running twice in AM news, once in PM news. On 11/13, aired an approx. :50 story with comments from WA Governor Jay Inslee asking Washingtonians not to gather for Thanksgiving unless they followed quarantine recommendations. Running 5x in AM news, once in PM news. And on 11/16, aired an approx. 1:20 story on Governor Jay Inslee announcing a series of new restrictions in response to the surge in coronavirus cases, running twice in AM news. A shorter, approx. :50 version running 4x in AM news, once in PM news. On 12/22, aired an approx. :30 story on Washington Governor Jay Inslee removing the mandatory cap of 25% capacity at religious services due to a federal court decision. The guidelines remain as recommendations, as Inslee believes the cap will save lives. Running once in AM news, once in PM news.

11/20 Aired an approx. 1:20 story with comments from a special meeting of the Lewiston City Council where a mask mandate was passed in a 4-3 vote. Running 5x in AM news. An approx. 1:05 version containing comments from citizens running twice in PM news.

On 12/8, aired in local news an approx. :45 story on Moscow's City Council extending the City's mask order to 9 June, running 3x in AM news, once in PM news.

AP News' 2-minute, top-of-the-hour newscasts, airing on KRLC, focused mainly on the pandemic.

## HUNGER-FOOD INSECURITY

On 11-24 newscasts, aired details on a first-ever study by Washington State University on food insecurity; specifically on how the pandemic has impacted access to food.

The Idaho Foodbank partnered with the USDA to handle its Farmers to Families Food Box Program in several drive-thru food distributions. On 10/12 an approx. :40 story on distributions planned for 10/14 in Lewiston and 10/16 in Moscow ran 3x in AM news and once in PM news, with details on the INN Facebook page.

On 10/30, aired an approx. :40 story on the Palouse Cares community drive-thru food drive at 2 locations in Moscow on 11/1, running 3x in AM news, once in PM news.

On 11/18, aired an approx. :30 story on the 11/20 food distribution at Moscow's Joseph Street Playfields, running 4x in AM news, once in PM news.

Aired reminders on the 12/20 distribution in Moscow twice in AM 12/6 news, once IN 12/17 news.

Aired PSA's on a fundraiser for the Idaho Non-Profit Center, at Lewiston's Mod Pizza on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, with 20% of meal prices going to the non-profit. :30 PSA's running 1x on 12/1 at 10:15a, once on 12/7 and 12/8 at 9:15a.

Aired PSA's on Holiday Heroes, the station's annual food drive benefiting the Idaho Food Bank. :30 PSA's running 5x weekly at 9:15a starting December 1 and continuing through December 18. 1:30 PSA's airing 7x on 12/19, the day of the event.

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Due to the pandemic, the Clarkston High School Craft Fair to benefit CHS performing arts was a virtual event this year. :30 PSA's, running 5x per week from October 27<sup>th</sup> to November 27<sup>th</sup>, provided details on how vendors and shoppers could participate.

:30 PSA's running 5x weekly from October 16<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup> on the 16 annual drive to collect winter coats for children and families in need.

:30 PSA's running 4x between December 9-12 on the Hiwaymen Motorcycle Club Toy Run, with details on drop-off locations for donated toys, which club members take to the Salvation Army in Lewiston.

:30 PSA's running 5x weekly between November 1 and December seeking financial support for the Christmas Connection, a partnership between St. Vincent de Paul and Toys for Tots to provide toys and food vouchers for needy families in Nez Perce and Asotin counties, and parts of Whitman and Latah counties.

#### MILITARY-VETERANS SUPPORT

:30 PSA's aired 10x weekly between October 15 and November 15 about Christmas Wishes to Our Heroes Overseas, an event gathering items and accepting donations for care packages to be sent to servicemen and women overseas.

:30 PSA'S running 7x between December 2 and December 7 on a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony conducted by the Valley Veterans Council.

## WEATHER:

The first local newscasts of the morning contained a brief synopsis on that day's weather for the Valley and region, and a look ahead at the weather to come for the next few days.

Advisories, watches and warnings as issued by the National Weather Services offices in Spokane, Pendleton, and Missoula were aired in local newscasts as follows:

10/12 Aired an approx. :40 story on a Wind Advisory in place for the Washington Palouse and lower Garfield and Asotin counties, with a High Wind Watch for the same areas Tuesday afternoon and evening, including the Idaho Palouse. Running twice in AM news, with an approx. :35 story on the High Wind Watch, running twice in AM news, once in PM news.

10/13 Aired an approx. :40 story on the High Wind Warning and Wind Advisory issued for the region, with peak gusts expected. Running 5x in AM news, updated twice in PM news.

10/16 Aired an approx. :30 story on the return of a Wind Advisory today's date for the Palouse and lower Garfield and Asotin counties, running twice in AM news, twice in PM news.

10/22 Aired an approx. :35 story on Winter Storm Watches issued ahead of an approaching early winter storm, running 3x in AM news. NWS Spokane forecaster Jeff Cote talks about the possible snowfall amounts outside the Valley and the cold that will embrace the entire region during the weekend. The approx :55 story running twice in AM news, once in PM news.

10/24 Aired an approx. :40 story on the Winter Storm Warnings and Winter Weather Advisories in place as the winter storm nears. Running 3x in AM news, once in PM news.

11/9 Aired an approx. :25 story on Winter Weather Advisories issued for the Palouse along and east of Highway 195 as well as the higher elevations around Lewiston. Running 4x in AM news, once in PM news.

11/10 Aired an update on the Winter Weather Advisories for the region, and those set to kick in. Running 3x in AM news, once in PM news.

11/12 Aired an approx. :20 story on winter weather advisories and winter storm warnings issued as the latest winter storm bears down, running twice in PM news.

11/13 Aired an approx. :30 story with the latest advisories and warnings, running 3x in AM news.

12/2 Aired an approx. :25 story on an Air Stagnation Advisory issued for much of the region, and the possible impact on people sensitive to air pollution, running twice in AM news, once in PM news.

12/11 Aired an approx. :20 story on a Winter Weather Advisory issued for the Idaho and Washington Palouse thru 1p today's date, running 5x in AM news.

12/30 Aired an approx. :35 story on Winter Weather Advisories issued for the Palouse running twice in AM news. Updated in PM news with the advisories replaced by Winter Storm Warnings, also issued for the Northern Clearwater Mountains and the Blue Mountains of Northern Oregon and Northwest Washington, running 3x. Updated on 12/31 with the Winter Storm Warning expiring for the Palouse, running twice in AM news.

## ELECTIONS

Vote-by-mail Washington did not see as many pandemic-related changes as did Idaho, which switched to an all-absentee election for the May Primary. Accordingly, local newscasts addressed the deadlines that Idaho voters needed to remember for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> General Election, whether they planned to vote early, vote absentee or cast ballots at polling places on Election Day.

On 10/5, aired an approx. :25 story details on the time and location for **early voting in Nez Perce County**, which continues thru 10/30. Running 5x in AM news, once in PM news. Another reminder running 5x in AM 10/6 news. Reminders aired 3x in AM 10/7 news. Reminders aired 3x in AM 10/13 news, once in PM news. Reminders aired 3x in AM 10/14 news. Reminders aired 4x in AM 10/15 news. Patty Weeks talks about early voting in an approx. :50 story running 3x in AM news on 10/16, and twice in PM news. A short reminder aired twice in AM news. Patty Weeks comments that people can also register to vote before voting early in an approx. :40 story running 3x in AM news, once in PM news on 10/19. Reminders running 4x in AM news, once in PM news on 10/20. Reminders running twice in 10/21 AM news, once in PM news. Reminders running 3x in AM 10/22 news. Reminders running twice in AM 10/23 news. Reminders running 6x in AM 10/26 news, once in PM news. Reminders running 6x in AM 10/27 news, once in PM news. Reminders running 6x in AM 10/28 news, and once in PM news. Reminders running 5x in AM 10/29 news, once in PM news. Reminders running running 6x in AM 10/30 news, with an update that early voting has closed, running once in PM news.

Aired an approx. :20 reminder that 10/9 is the **deadline for pre-registering to vote at county elections offices**, while noting that for those who miss the deadline, registration is also available at polling places on Election Day. Running 5x in AM news, once in PM news. Reminder running 3x in AM, once in 10/6 PM news. Reminders running 3x in AM news, once in PM news. Reminder running once in 10/8 AM news. Aired a reminder 5x in AM 10/9 news on today's deadline while noting that registration is available at polling places on Election Day for those missing the deadline.

10/19 Aired an approx. :25 reminder on the October 23 deadline for returning a completed application for an **absentee ballot** to county elections departments in Idaho, running 6x in AM news. Reminders running 5x in AM news, once in PM news on 10/20. Reminders running 4x in AM news, once in PM 10/21 news. Reminders running 3x in AM 10/22 news. Reminders running twice in AM 10/23 news. With the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot passing, NPC Clerk Patty Weeks talked about the options Nez Perce County voters have to return their ballots in an approx. :30 story running 4x in AM news, once in PM news. Updated on 10/29 with Patty Weeks talking about the number of outstanding absentee ballots, an approx. :40 story running 4x in AM news, once in PM news.

On Election Day: Clerk Patty Weeks talked about registering to vote at Idaho polling places on Election Day in an approx. :30 story running 4x in AM news.

Aired reminders on polling hours, plus deadlines for placing absentee/mail-in ballots in drop boxes throughout the day.

Election Night: Results from local contested elections running 6x in PM newscasts on the 3 stations of Ida Vend Broadcasting.

## EDUCATION:

Education issues were addressed in local newscasts as follows:

10/1 During a virtual townhall WSU Provost Elizabeth Chilton discusses most undergraduate courses will be online for the school's Spring Semester, the approx. :40 story running twice in AM news.

10/6 Aired an approx. :40 story on the Apply Idaho program, where Gem State high school seniors can send their applications to all of the public institutions from one site, free of charge. Running twice in AM news, once in PM news, and once in AM 10/7 news.

10/20 Aired an approx. :50 story on Governor Brad Little's "Strong Families, Strong Students" initiative, where low-income parents can apply for grants online to pay for their student's educational needs. Running 5x in AM news, once in PM news. Updated on 11/5 with news that parents need to apply by 4p on 11/5, including the website for applying. Running twice in AM news, twice in PM news. Updated on 11/25 with an approx. :35 story on the application portal re-opening thru 4 December, running twice in PM news, 3x in AM 11/30 news.

11/2 Aired an approx. :15 story on masking required at all Lewiston Public Schools, starting today's date. Running 4x in AM news, once in PM news.

11/4 Aired an approx. :30 story on students in Clarkston's Lincoln Middle School, CHS, and the Educational Opportunity Center switching to a 2-week period of distance learning, starting 11/5. Running twice in PM news, with a shortened version running 4x in AM 11/5 news. Aired an approx. :35 update on 7-12 students returning to distance learning on 11-30, running 3x in AM news, once in PM news.

11/20 Aired an approx. :45 story on WSU leaders urging students not to let their guard down if traveling home for Thanksgiving. Running 3x in AM news, once in PM news.

12/19 Aired an approx. :30 story on the SBOE waiving temporarily the rule requiring students to take a college entrance exam to graduate from a public high school. Running once in AM news.