

April 2, 2020

CATEGORY: News Release
RELEASE DATE: For Immediate Release
REGARDING: COVID-19 VIRUS

First Positive COVID-19 Test Reported in Pend Oreille County

Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) was notified today, April 2, 2020, of the first positive COVID-19 test for a person residing in Pend Oreille County.

The individual who tested positive for COVID-19 is in isolation at home. NETCHD is in the process of notifying potential close contacts and these individuals will be given additional guidance and advised of precautions they should take.

News of this first case in Pend Oreille County may cause fear and uncertainty. However, the medical facilities, providers, and business owners in Pend Oreille County took precautions early on that have allowed them to prepare for this first case. The early efforts, coupled with help from the public, could make the difference in reducing the spread of the virus and protecting local residents.

It is likely that more cases will be confirmed in our area. Investigations in other counties are seeing a common trend relating to exposure, which involve:

- travel or visitation of individuals traveling, to and from out of the area; or
- travel to areas outside the local communities

COVID-19 has shown that it is not limited to specific communities, work sites, or individuals. It is also known that a person can be infected with COVID-19 and be contagious while showing mild or no symptoms. We are strongly urging everyone to abide by Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order. This simple, but important action, could prevent the virus from unknowingly infecting others.

Within Washington State, there have been a total of 6590 cases of COVID-19 and 259 deaths. At the time of this press release, in the three-county area of northeastern Washington the number of individuals tested are:

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- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stevens County - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ferry County - 147 N. Clark, PO Box 584, Republic, WA 99166 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration Phone: 509-684-2262 , Fax: 509-684-1002 | Phone: 509-775-3111 , Fax: 509-775-2858 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Health Phone: 509-684-2262 , Fax: 509-684-9878 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Health Phone: 509-684-2262 , Fax: 509-684-8506 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pend Oreille County - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156 |
| | Phone: 509-447-3131 , Fax: 509-447-5644 |

- Ferry County: 1 positive case, 62 negative test results, 0 deaths
- Pend Oreille County: 1 positive cases, 102 negative test results, 0 deaths
- Stevens County: 5 positive cases, 210 negative, 0 deaths

These numbers will be updated daily on NETCHD's website (www.netchd.org) and Facebook page. These numbers have been recently adjusted, please visit the Washington State Department of Health's website for explanation on discrepancies with DOH's numbers.

If you have concerns surrounding COVID-19, you may call Pend Oreille County's Emergency Call Center at 509-447-1988, open Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Northeast Tri County Health District is asking the public to do their part to help reduce the spread of COVID- 19:

- Honor Governor Inslee's proclamations limiting social gatherings, social distancing, an order to "Stay Home, Stay Healthy"
- **Limit your interactions and practice social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) from others**
- **If you have been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting test results, follow public health requirements to quarantine yourself from others**
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water; if unavailable, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Frequently clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
- Stay home and away from others when sick, including limiting close contact with others in your household who are not sick

For More Information on Novel Coronavirus

This is an emerging outbreak with rapidly evolving information. Updates will be made as new information is available on the DOH website: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus> and Northeast Tri County Health District's website www.netchd.org. These websites include information for individuals, community organizations, schools and childcare facilities. Websites are being updated as new information becomes available.

Newport Hospital and Health Services has a website dedicated to coronavirus testing and other information. <https://newporthospitalandhealth.org/nhhs-response-to-novel-coronavirus/>

The Washington State Department of Health has established a call center to address questions from the public. If you have questions about what is happening in Washington state, how the virus is spread, and what to do if you have symptoms, please call 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

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