

June 27, 2020

CATEGORY: News Release
RELEASE DATE: For Immediate Release
REGARDING: New Positive COVID-19 Case Reported in Pend Oreille

Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) was notified today, June 27, 2020, of a new positive COVID-19 case in Pend Oreille County. With the new case identified earlier today in Stevens County, this brings the combined total of positive cases for Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties to 22. Ferry (1), Pend Oreille (4), and Stevens (17).

The individual who tested positive resides in the Newport area and is currently isolating at home. NETCHD staff is in process of notifying close contacts to give them guidance and advise of precautions they should take.

It has been three weeks since Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties advanced to Phase 3. Gov. Jay Inslee and Sec. John Wiesman announced today the Washington State Department of Health is putting a pause on counties moving to Phase 4 though the "[Safe Start](#)" phased approach. Rising cases across the state and concerns about continued spread of the COVID virus have made Phase 4, which would essentially mean no restrictions, impossible at this time. Eight counties were eligible to move from Phase 3 to Phase 4 before the pause.

"Phase 4 would mean a return to normal activity and we can't do that now due to the continued rise in cases across the state," Inslee said. "We all want to get back to doing all the things we love in Washington during the summer, and fully open our economy, but we aren't there yet. This is an evolving situation and we will continue to make decisions based on the data."

"The best thing Washingtonians can do to slow the spread of the virus and save lives is to wear facial coverings, continue to maintain physical distancing and good hygiene practices," Wiesman said. "Now that testing supplies are available, it is critical to get a test if you have any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19."

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