

March 25, 2020

CATEGORY: News Release

RELEASE DATE: For Immediate Release

REGARDING: COVID-19 VIRUS

First Positive COVID-19 Test Reported in Ferry County, Second Case in Stevens County

Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) was notified today, March 25, 2020, of the first positive COVID-19 test for a Ferry County resident and of a second case within Stevens County.

Both individuals are not currently hospitalized and are isolating themselves at home. To protect the privacy of those testing positive, information that may lead to a person's identity being revealed will not be disclosed. NETCHD is notifying potential close contacts and these individuals will be given additional guidance and advised of precautions they should take.

We understand news of these confirmed cases in our community can create fear and uncertainty. NETCHD continues to work aggressively with our medical providers, emergency management teams, and community partners to protect the health of the public.

It is likely that more cases will be confirmed in our area. We are strongly urging everyone to abide by Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order. COVID-19 has shown that it is not limited to specific communities, work sites, or individuals. We must do our individual part to reduce the spread by staying home whenever possible and limiting contact with others.

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- Stevens County** - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114
 - Administration Phone: 509-684-2262**, Fax: 509-684-1002
 - Community Health Phone: 509-684-2262**, Fax: 509-684-9878
 - Environmental Health Phone: 509-684-2262**, Fax: 509-684-8506

- Ferry County** - 147 N. Clark, PO Box 584, Republic, WA 99166
Phone: 509-775-3111, Fax: 509-775-2858
- Pend Oreille County** - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156
Phone: 509-447-3131, Fax: 509-447-5644

Within Washington State, there have been a total of 2,469 cases of COVID-19 and 123 deaths. As of right now, in the three-county area of northeastern Washington the number of individuals tested are:

- Ferry County: 1 positive case, 29 negative test results, 0 deaths
- Pend Oreille County: 0 positive cases, 38 negative test results, 0 deaths
- Stevens County: 2 positive cases, 53 negatives, 0 deaths

These numbers will be updated daily on the NETCHD's website (www.netchd.org) and Facebook page.

NETCHD is urging the public do their part to help reduce the spread of COVID- 19:

- Honor Governor Inslee's proclamations limiting social gatherings, social distancing, and 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

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 Washington State Department of Health 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.

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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