

May 6, 2020

CATEGORY: News Release

RELEASE DATE: For Immediate Release

REGARDING: COVID-19 Stay Home Order and County Variance Request Update

On May 1, 2020 Governor Inslee announced the extension of the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order until the end of May but allowed for small counties (with a population of less than 75,000) and no cases within the preceding 3 weeks to move into Phase 2 before the rest of the state.

This process required Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) to submit a variance request to the Washington State Department of Health. This variance request was submitted on May 5, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. County variance applications will be approved or denied by the Secretary of Health.

Ferry County and Pend Oreille County met the preliminary criteria for the variance request. The last confirmed case of COVID-19 occurred March 17th in Ferry County and April 13th in Pend Oreille County. For Stevens County, the last positive case was April 20th. If there were no other cases, Stevens County could be eligible to move to Phase 2 on May 11th. An additional positive case could affect the eligibility of each county to advance into Phase 2.

Until the Variance is Approved for Each County to Move to Phase 2, All Counties Remain in Phase 1

In preparation for reopening, staff at NETCHD have put together packets with information and resources businesses may use to ensure they are following the guidelines recommended for reopening. This information is available at www.netchd.org. Each business is going to be different in how they implement these guidelines based on their size, facility, and product. NETCHD is available to review safety plans or provide resources to locate personal protective equipment (PPE) or cleaning supplies for your businesses. Please contact our Environmental Health Department at 509-684-2262, option #2 if you have questions or concerns regarding the recommended guidelines.

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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