

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05/31/2016**

TO: Grant County Media

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

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## **2015-2016 Influenza Season Has Ended**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has announced the end of the 2015-2016 influenza season. Influenza activity in the state is low and numbers of reported cases in Grant County have returned to pre-epidemic levels. During this season, the Grant County Health District (GCHD) received notification of **396 positive influenza lab reports and no influenza related deaths in Grant County.**

In most circumstances healthcare providers are not mandated to report influenza test results. In order to monitor influenza activity in Grant County, GCHD partnered with eleven healthcare facilities (including one out of Washington State) who have agreed to report positive influenza results. GCHD staff appreciates the cooperation of Columbia Basin Hospital, Columbia Basin Family Medicine, Confluence Health (Moses Lake Clinic- Walk-In, Family Medicine and Pediatrics), Mattawa Community Medical Clinic, Moses Lake Community Health Center, Quincy Community Health Center, Quincy Valley Medical Center, Wahluke Family Health Center, and Columbia Basin Health Association-Othello. These reports assisted GCHD with monitoring influenza activity in the county and facilitated timely notification to the healthcare community and the public when influenza was increasing.

It is not uncommon for the influenza season (above-epidemic levels of influenza activity) to last into May or June. GCHD has only received one positive influenza cases since mid- May. Therefore, with low influenza activity, the 2015-2016 influenza epidemic is likely over. Additional cases or clusters may still occur and continue surveillance for influenza is still occurring.

**Residents are encouraged to get their 2016-2017 flu shot as soon as they become available through your healthcare provider or pharmacy.**

### **Consultation**

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