

March 15, 2020

To: Mattawa Faith Community

From: Grant County Health District

Subject: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Exposure

This letter is to inform the Mattawa faith community that Grant County Health District has received positive COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) test results for one of the local parish priests. He is a male in his 40s who is hospitalized and being cared for. Those who have had close contact with this individual have been contacted by the Health District. We continue to work with the Yakima Diocese to locate and contact additional people. Below is a list of times and locations where you may have been exposed.

Date	Location
2/26/20 7:00 AM & 12:00 PM	Mass at Our Lady of the Desert Parish, Mattawa
2/26/20 6:00 PM	St. Michael's Archangel Catholic Church, Royal City
3/1/20 12:00 PM & 5:00 PM	Mass at Our Lady of the Desert Parish, Mattawa

We are asking you to follow these steps:

- **Those with a contact to a person with COVID-19 within 6 feet should immediately quarantine themselves at home and contact GCHD (in not already contacted)**
- **The rest should monitor their health for fever, cough and shortness of breath during the 14 days after the last day you were in close contact with the sick person.**
- **If you are sick or get sick call your healthcare provider before you go into the clinic or hospital for evaluation and testing.**

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a novel coronavirus with the most common symptoms being fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Most people with COVID-19 will have mild sickness but some people will get sicker and may need to stay in the hospital.

If you were not at the events listed above your risk is lower for infection. You can continue to go to work and you should monitor your health for 14 days and stay away from others if you get sick.

Health conditions that may increase your risk for a serious infection—age 60 years or older, are pregnant, or have medical conditions (like diabetes, hypertension, lung, heart, kidney or immune system diseases)—contact your physician's office and tell them that you were exposed to someone with COVID-19. They may want to monitor your health more closely or test you for COVID-19.

If you do not have a high-risk condition but want medical advice, call your healthcare provider and tell them you were exposed to someone with COVID-19. Your healthcare provider can help you decide if you need to be seen in person. There are currently no medications to treat COVID-19.

GCHD strongly advises our communities of faith to make most urgent steps toward protecting our vulnerable in a unified and coordinated way. It is time to protect our communities by distancing from each other even when worshipping, which could be a challenge but also is a unique opportunity to bring us together. Any gatherings or

contacts within 6 feet outside of our home and non-essential to life should not be occurring. It is our collective wisdom to recognize that early, persistent and consistent distancing and hygiene interventions will make a difference and will save lives.

These are the times that faith brings us together— times, when those around us need assurance that we're not alone, and that together we will get through whatever lies ahead. Now is the time to care for one another in acts of kindness and love. Remember that we do not walk this road alone.

Please, if you need groceries, a meal, conversation, a pharmacy run, or anything else, contact your neighbor, family or friends. Discuss with them how to safely deliver you goods if you are sick. Many volunteers are ready to help, but we must look out for everyone's safety. We really are all in this together.

***If you become sick and go to the doctor, please show them this letter.***

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