

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3/2/2020

TO: Grant County healthcare providers, infection control staff, supervisory nursing staff, clinic management, school nurses.
Grant County Emergency Management
Grant County Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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**One Person Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
in Grant County**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – On March 1, 2020 the Grant County Health District (GCHD) was notified of an individual showing symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Washington Department of Health (DOH) guidance, GCHD submitted a specimen to the Washington State Public Health Laboratories for testing. Results are expected within 3-5 days.

GCHD will notify the individual and the public with results when available.

GCHD continues to prepare for the possibility of Grant County being affected by this outbreak. GCHD has been communicating with local healthcare and emergency response partners to ensure that effective prevention and response strategies are in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when it arrives.

If someone feels sick and are at risk for COVID-19, they should call their healthcare provider **before** going to get care and tell their doctor about their symptoms and travel. Their healthcare provider can give instructions so that others are not exposed.

Currently, testing is only available at the state laboratory, not in Grant County. Health care providers must follow CDC guidelines when requesting testing for COVID-19. Those guidelines state that a person must be showing certain symptoms and must have traveled to a high risk area or lack another diagnosis.

People should continue to practice protective measures for sickness. These measures include:

- wash hands often with soap and warm water (20 seconds);
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- avoid contact with people who are sick;
- stay home and avoid close contact with other while you are sick;
- cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.

In light of recently reported cases from our state, it is also appropriate to follow DOH recommendations and plans on social distancing and other methods of reducing the spread of this virus even now.

Additional Resources:

Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

COVID-19 FAQ: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/NovelCoronavirusFactSheet.pdf>

Consultation

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