

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 3/6/2020**

TO: Grant County healthcare providers, infection control staff, supervisory nursing staff, clinic management, urgent cares, and school nurses, Grant County Emergency Management

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

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## **COVID-19 in Washington State and Grant County**

### **Important Updates and Guidance for Healthcare Providers**

Grant County health District (GCHD) is issuing this update to the use of PPEs in healthcare setting when evaluating individuals with COVID-19 or those suspected for COVID-19. In addition, GCHD endorses in general the new CDC interim guidance when evaluating exposures of healthcare workers to COVID-19 in the healthcare setting. **These new practices are effective immediately.**

#### **Healthcare Worker (HCW) PPE Guidance**

Due to this rapidly evolving situation and based on the most recent evidence, HCW in contact with a patient treated or evaluated for COVID-19 are NO LONGER REQUIRED to use a properly fitted N-95 masks at all times. **HCW are now required to use ANY MASK (a surgical mask is sufficient), AND an eye protection, gloves and gown when attending to patients suspected or treated for COVID-19. The use of N95 mask (or higher), in addition to the other PPEs mentioned, is now required only for healthcare workers performing aerosol-producing procedures (including obtaining a nasopharyngeal swab).** For more information, see the attached (last 2 pages) “Droplet Precaution” sign or use the following link:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/AirborneRespiratorContactPrecautionSign-nCov.pdf>

#### **Evaluating HCW Exposures in Healthcare Setting**

Please refer to the following link concerning this issue: ***CDC Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with COVID-19*** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Considering the need to preserve our rural capacity to care for our patients, it is the opinion of GCHD that each organization should use the CDC guidance in an easy to administer and reproducible manner with preference given to “self-monitoring with delegated supervision” at the workplace in most exposure situations (for example, HCW is allowed to work wearing a mask at all times, monitored regularly at the beginning and end of the shift by employee health, with the results recorded). It is the expectation **that those HCWs exposed (without proper PPEs) when doing aerosolizing procedures (obtaining a nasopharyngeal swab, for example) are addressed in a more restrictive manner.**

It is essential that all healthcare facilities create environments and procedures limiting the risk of HCW exposures to COVID-19. Please contact GCHD for consultations.

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## Information Regarding Evaluating, Treating and Testing Patients with Suspected COVID-19

(use the following links)

DOH: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/HealthcareProviders>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.htm>

## Situation Update in Grant County

- **One (1) confirmed case; zero (0) deaths.**
  - Grant County patient—a resident of Quincy in their eighties—admitted to Central Washington Hospital on 2/29/20, tested positive for COVID-19 on 3/4/20. This is the first laboratory detection of the virus in our community; patient is hospitalized in critical condition.
- COVID-19 test negative for patient at Samaritan Hospital
- **Persons Under Investigation (PUI) of COVID-19 infection must be reported to GCHD via phone (509) 766-7960 ext. 19, or by fax to (509) 764-2813**, please note that this reporting requirement may change if numbers of PUIs increase significantly.

## Statewide Counts: (as of 3/5/20 at 11 a.m.)

### 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Washington

Positive (confirmed) * †	70
Deaths	10

\* Positive

- Snohomish County - 18, including 1 death
- King County - 51, including 9 deaths
- Grant County - 1 case

## Additional Guidance

Washington State Department of Health and CDC have compiled additional guidance for healthcare providers, which is available on their website:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus/Resources>

- [Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet for Patients \(King County\)](#)
- [Healthcare Infection Prevention Guidance for COVID-19](#)
- [Healthcare Professional Preparedness Checklist for Transport and Arrival of Patients Potentially Infected with COVID-19](#)
- [Hospital Preparedness Checklist for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients](#)
- [COVID-19 Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions](#)
- [Lab Biosafety Guidelines](#)

## Additional Resources

- [COVID-19 Global Cases, GIS Mapping, Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering](#)
- Information for Healthcare Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19/guidance-hcp.html>
- Interim Guidance for Preventing Transmission in Homes and Communities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/COVID-19/guidance-prevent-spread.html>
- Guidance for Travelers: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/novel-coronavirus-china>

## Upcoming Healthcare Provider Conference Call

### Coronavirus updates with Health Officer

Mon, Mar 9, 2020 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM (PDT) Join o hear the latest updates on COVID-19, and have the opportunity to ask questions with Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny via “GoToMeeting”:

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/629045013>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3112](tel:+15713173112)

**Access Code:** 629-045-013

(Droplet Precaution Sign below)

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# SPECIAL DROPLET/CONTACT PRECAUTIONS



In addition to Standard Precautions

**Only essential personnel should enter this room**

*If you have questions ask nursing staff*

**Everyone Must:** including visitors, doctors & staff



**Clean hands when entering and leaving room**



**Wear mask**

Fit tested N-95 or higher required when doing aerosolizing procedures



**Wear eye protection**  
(face shield or goggles)



**Gown and glove at door**



**KEEP DOOR CLOSED**



**Use patient dedicated or disposable equipment.  
Clean and disinfect shared equipment.**

**Contact Infection Control prior to discontinuing Precautions**

## Special Droplet/Contact Precautions

**If patient has diarrhea and/or C. difficile add Contact Enteric Precautions**

### LIMIT VISITORS AND DOCUMENT ANYONE THAT HAS CONTACT WITH THE PATIENT AND NOTIFY EMPLOYEE HEALTH

Display sign outside the door. At patient discharge, remove sign after room is terminally cleaned.

#### For use with:

- Respiratory viruses including COVID-19

#### Dishes/Utensils:

No special precautions. Kitchenware sanitized in dishwasher.

#### Equipment and Supplies:

- Only essential supplies in room.
- Use dedicated or disposable equipment when available.
- Minimize use of cellphones/pagers.
- Clean and disinfect reusable equipment including intravenous pumps, cell phone or pagers (if used in room), and other electronics, supplies, and other equipment prior to removing from patient's room.
- Ensure blood pressure cuff and stethoscope are cleaned and disinfected between patients.

#### Waste and Linen Management:

For COVID-19, follow local and state public health guidelines Category B for medical waste handling. Bag linen in the patient's room.

#### Private Room:

If not available, room with patients that have the same organism but no other infection.

#### Room Cleaning:

Routine cleaning procedures with addition of cubical curtain changes per hospital procedure.

#### Transport:

**Essential transport only.** Patient should remain in room except for medical necessity. Patient should wash their hands. Place patient in clean gown. Place surgical mask on patient. Clean and disinfect transport vehicle. Alert receiving department regarding patient's isolation precaution status.

#### Personal Protective Equipment:

Put ON in this order:

1. **WASH OR GEL HANDS (even if gloves used)**
2. Gown



3. Mask and eye cover



4. Gloves



Take OFF & dispose in this order:

1. Gloves



2. Gown



3. **WASH or GEL HANDS**

4. Mask and eye cover: Remove from earpiece or ties to discard - do not grab from front of mask.



5. **WASH or GEL HANDS (even if gloves used)**