



GRANT COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 West Ivy, Suite 1  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 11/17/2020**

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

Grant County Emergency Management

City Leadership

Grant County Media

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

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## **Wedding Outbreak Update**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – The November 7<sup>th</sup> large wedding outbreak is currently still under investigation by Grant County Health District staff. We continue to follow up with confirmed cases and as of this evening the cases are approaching 40. Below are some of the frequently asked questions we have received so far. We apologize that we are unable to currently do phone or on camera interviews. In addition to this outbreak GCHD is experiencing high volumes of positive cases. The disease investigators number one priority is to contact the positive cases assigned to them. It will take time for their case investigation summaries to get submitted to the Lead Investigators.

**Will we release the names of the wedding party?** No. Our purpose for the press release is to inform the public of the potential exposure at a large event and to please seek testing and to self-quarantine through Saturday, November 21. We appreciate the cooperation of the wedding participants in working with our case investigators. Their cooperation in seeking testing and case investigations will help reduce the spread to other venues and vulnerable populations.

**What are the locations of the other subsequent outbreaks?** We are working with a long-term care facility and a school district because of a direct link to wedding attendance or secondary cases resulting from contact with wedding participants. At this point in the investigation it is premature to state how many cases have resulted from these outbreaks, due to pending testing and case investigations.

**How many other counties are impacted by the outbreak?** Because of the potential for multiple counties being impacted we have notified neighboring counties prior to the news release being sent out. Please contact them for case information regarding their residents.

**Confirmed location:** The wedding was hosted by Grant County residents, but the event was held in rural Ritzville.

**Are the venue hosts being fined?** Grant County Health District is not the agency responsible for enforcing the rule on large gatherings or issuing fine for such activity."

As a reminder the Grant County Health District (GCHD) is asking **attendees of a large wedding held in a private location near Ritzville, WA on November 7<sup>th</sup> to get tested for COVID-19** after several people have tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, **anyone who attended the wedding is being asked to self-quarantine through Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.**

"While GCHD is dealing with the magnitude of this event, we would like to thank the wedding participants for their continued cooperation. By answering the phones and being truthful with your responses, together with your help, we will try and slow the spread and impact from this event," states Health District Administrator Theresa Adkinson.

For detailed information on Grant County COVID-19 related statistics, visit [www.granhealth.org](http://www.granhealth.org).

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