

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/2/2020

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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Eight Additional Grant County Resident Deaths Associated with COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)

Grant County, WA – Grant County Health District is reporting eight (8) additional confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths of Grant County residents.

All eight (8) were associated with Long Term Care Facilities (LTC), with seven (7) of them being associated with the outbreaks reported on November 20th:

- McKay Healthcare & Rehab Center, Soap Lake (additional 4 pending death certificate review)
 - Female in her 90s
- Lake Ridge Center, Moses Lake (additional 3 pending death certificate review)
 - Female in her 60s
 - Male in his 80s
 - Male in his 90s
- Columbia Crest Center, Moses Lake (additional 2 pending death certificate review)
 - Male in his 70s
 - Male in his 90s
 - Male in his 80s

One other death was a resident of an LTC in Ephrata, a female in her 80s.

All these residents had underlying conditions putting them at higher risk for severe complications due to a COVID-19 infection. These deaths bring the total Grant County confirmed COVID-19 related deaths to forty-four (44).

We are saddened by the loss of these residents and grieve alongside their family and friends. Our hearts are with them and on behalf of our staff, Grant County Health Officer, and Board of Health, we are so sorry for your loss.

Grant County Health District delays the announcement of COVID-19 associated deaths to give families time to notify their loved ones. We also verify COVID-19 is listed as a cause of death on the death certificate to ensure we are not reporting deaths that are not attributed to COVID-19. All reported deaths of Grant County residents are attributed to COVID-19 and were verified with the death certificate, testing, and other case information.

Our most vulnerable community members — elderly, immunocompromised, and those with chronic conditions — are especially at risk of complications due to a COVID-19 infection and we must continue to take measures to protect them from this disease. The best way to do that is by staying home as much as possible. Your choice to gather with

those outside your household could lead to additional cases of COVID-19 and even death. Please protect those you love, by staying home.

We need everyone to do their part to slow the spread and flatten the curve to ensuring our healthcare facilities are not overwhelmed. **Each personal decision we make will impact our most vulnerable residents.** For the health of your family, neighbors, and friends it is critical to wear a face covering in public and stay home if you feel sick or have been asked to quarantine or isolate. Everyone can do their part to protect one another and limit the spread of illness in our communities:

- Wear a face covering anytime you are in public or around people you do not live with.
- Stay home if you feel sick, are under quarantine or isolation orders, or have been told you are close contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Use physical distancing and stay 6 feet away from others as much as possible when you are in public or at work.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially before eating or coming home. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- If you do choose to get together for things like holiday parties, birthdays, and other get-togethers, have them outside and limit them to no more than 5 people outside your household.

For detailed information on Grant County COVID-19 related statistics, visit www.granthealth.org.

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