

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 2/24/2021

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

Grant County, WA – Grant County Health District is reporting six (6) additional confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths of Grant County residents. These deaths bring the total Grant County confirmed COVID-19 related deaths to one hundred and fifteen (115).

None of the deaths were associated with a Long-Term Care Facility. Four residents had underlying conditions putting them at higher risk of severe complications due to a COVID-19 infection:

- Female Soap Lake resident in her 50s
- Male Moses Lake resident in his 60s
- Two male Moses Lake residents in their 70s

Two residents did not have known underlying conditions:

- Female Moses Lake resident in her 70s
- Male Moses Lake resident in his 70s

Grant County Health District is saddened by these deaths and our hearts are with their family and friends. 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Grant County has administered over **10,000 vaccinations**, including both first and second doses. In addition to our Task Force, Grant County has formed a multiple county agency **Incident Management Team**, including Grant County Sheriff Office Emergency Management, GCHD, Fire Districts, and healthcare providers. The Incident Management Team will work together to coordinate large vaccination events such as those held at the Moses Lake Fairgrounds, Quincy High School, and Coulee Medical Center. The team is also working on a volunteer registry, more information coming soon.

Due to weather delays locally and nationally, many healthcare facilities did not receive vaccine last week. Doses will be available this week and with prioritization on second doses, rescheduling any cancelled appointments.

Washington State will be receiving larger allocations of vaccine from the federal government in increasing amounts over the next few weeks. Phase 1A and 1B1 are still the only open tiers for eligibility.

The Washington State Department of Health now includes current vaccination totals for the state and at the county level on their COVID-19 Dashboard: www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard

If you are eligible to get vaccinated for COVID-19 – don't hesitate, vaccinate! To find out if you are eligible go to www.FindYourPhaseWA.org.

Stop the Spread of COVID-19 - With Your Phone

There is a new tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19: Your phone. WANotify can alert you if you have been near another user who later tests positive for COVID. It's simple to add and your privacy is protected. Visit: www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/WANotify to learn more.

Please continue to consistently take steps that prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- 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 a 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.

We need everyone to do their part to slow the spread to ensure our healthcare facilities are not overwhelmed. **Each personal decision we make will impact our most vulnerable residents.** 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. Everyone can do their part to protect one another and limit the spread of illness in our communities!

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

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