

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 12/3/2020

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

Grant County, WA – Grant County Health District is reporting ten (10) additional confirmed COVID-19 associated deaths of Grant County residents.

Seven (7) deaths were associated with Long Term Care Facilities (LTC) outbreaks reported on November 20th and all these residents had underlying conditions putting them at higher risk for severe complications due to a COVID-19 infection:

- McKay Healthcare & Rehab Center, Soap Lake (additional 3 pending death certificate review)
 - Male in his 80s
- Lake Ridge Center, Moses Lake (additional 1 pending death certificate review)
 - Male in his 70s
 - Male in his 80s
 - Two (2) Males in their 90s
- Columbia Crest Center, Moses Lake
 - Male in his 80s
 - Male in his 70s

Our investigations have determined that there were long term care staff who tested positive for COVID-19 who attended the large wedding in Ritzville, WA reported on November 16th. Because staff in these facilities care for entire units, direct contact with associated patients is not known.

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.

There were also three (3) deaths not associated with an LTC:

- Female resident of Moses Lake in her 70s who had underlying conditions putting them at higher risk for severe complications due to a COVID-19 infection,
- Male resident of Moses Lake in his 80s who did not have underlying conditions putting them at higher risk for severe complications due to a COVID-19 infection, and

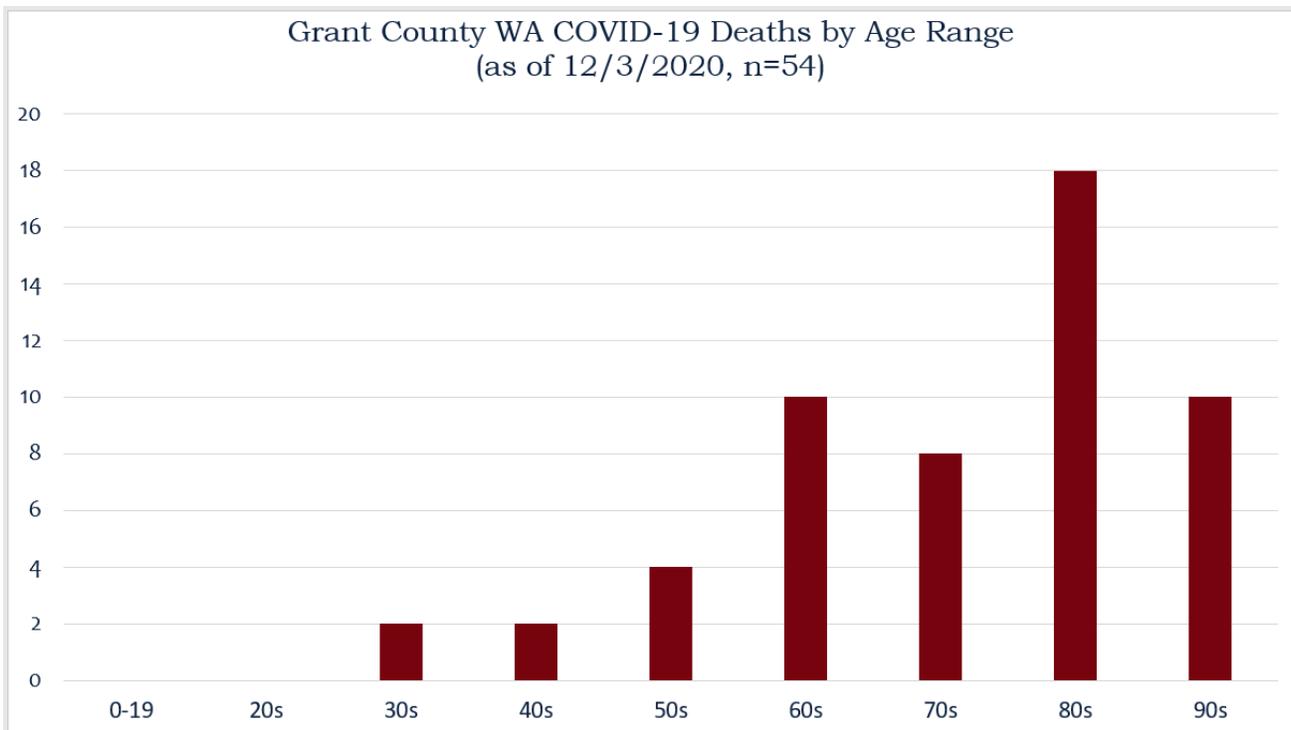
- Female in her 90s who had underlying conditions putting them at higher risk for severe complications due to a COVID-19 infection

These deaths bring the total Grant County confirmed COVID-19 related deaths to fifty-four (54).

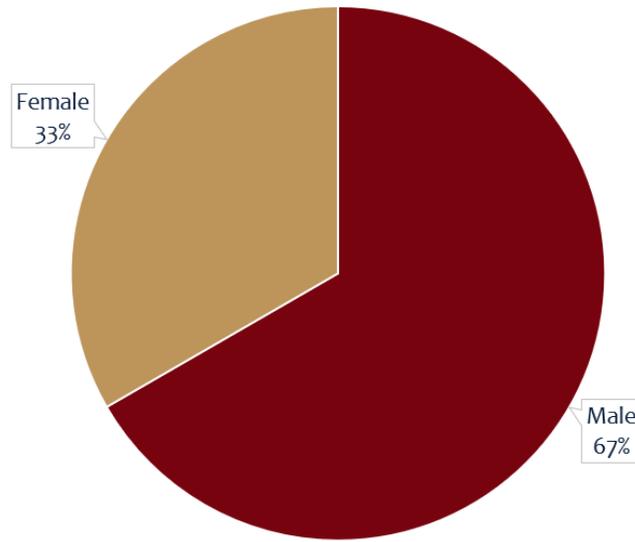
Our hearts are with the families and friends of these residents. On behalf of our staff, Grant County Health Officer, and Board of Health, we are so sorry for your loss.

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.

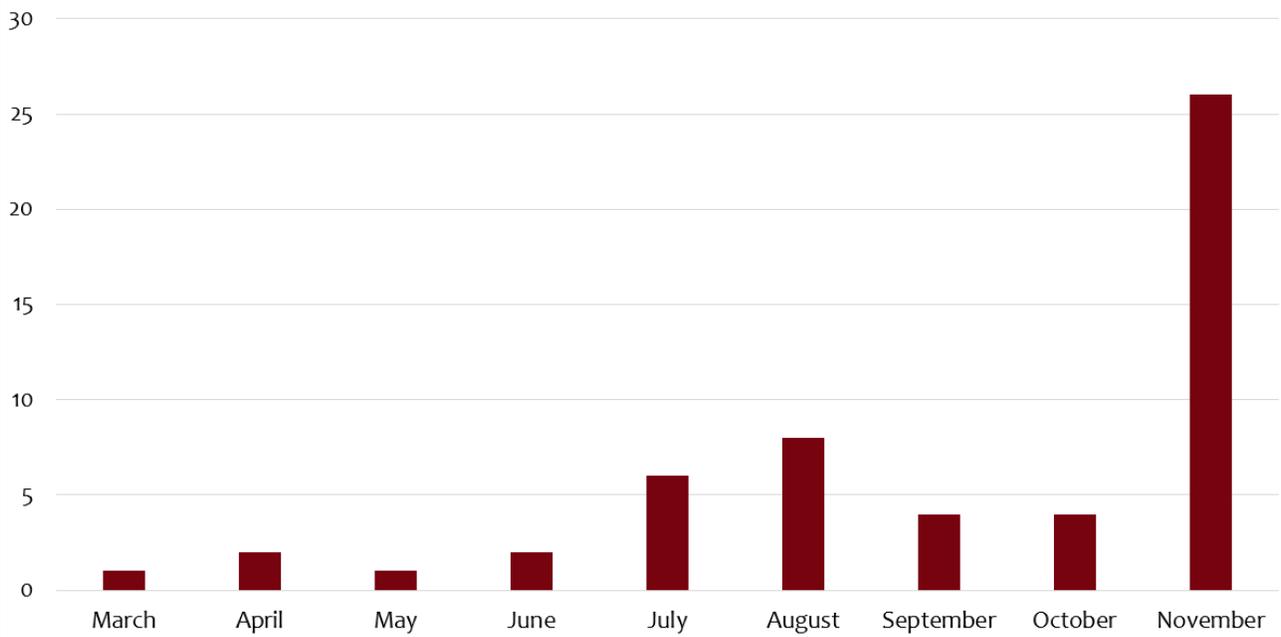
Below is demographic data for the 54 deaths GCHD has reported:



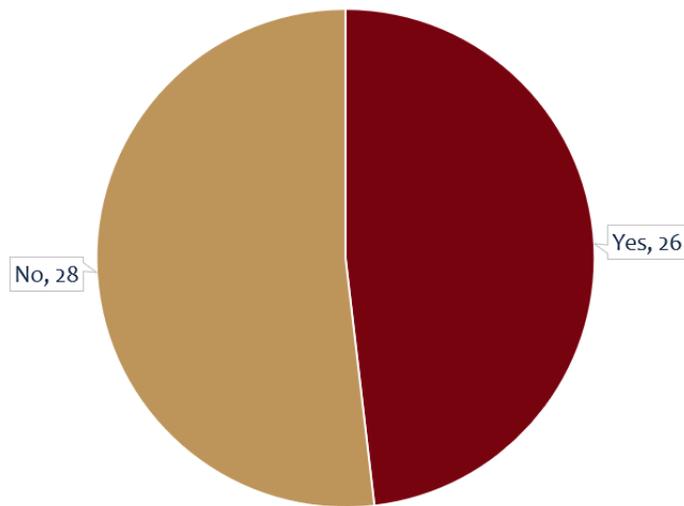
Grant County, WA COVID-19 Deaths by Sex at Birth
(as of 12/3/2020, n=54)



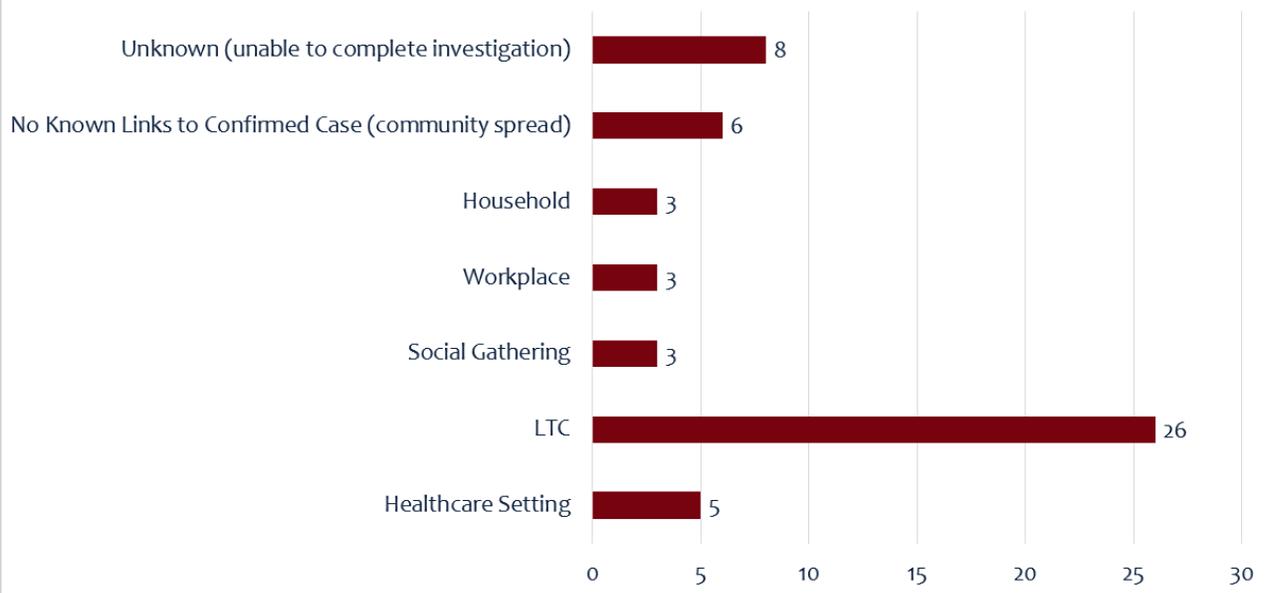
Grant County, WA COVID-19 Deaths by Month of Death
(as of 12/3/2020, n=54)



Grant County, WA COVID-19 Deaths Associated with Long Term Care Facilities (as of 12/3/2020, n=54)



Grant County, WA COVID-19 Deaths Likely Exposure Setting to SARS-CoV-2 (as of 12/3/2020, n=54)



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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