



WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walla Walla County COVID-19 Update

Walla Walla residents under public health monitoring and investigation

Walla Walla, WA - Walla Walla County health officials are confirming that there are no identified presumed positive cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in residents of Walla Walla County. Public Health officials continue to closely monitor the situation and are in communication with local healthcare partners, multi-jurisdictional public health agencies across county and state lines to ensure that effective prevention measures and response strategies are in place.

Today Governor Inslee gave an update to measures being taken in three counties (King, Snohomish, and Pierce) in effort to slow the spread of this virus. You can read about it on the link [here](#).

Umatilla County in coordination with the Oregon Health Authority announced four new presumptive cases of COVID-19 including a second resident from Umatilla County. The link to the article is [here](#). This evening Columbia County reports a positive case in their community. Both cases have been under home isolation.

Walla Walla Department of Community Health received an additional negative test result from the lab today and this has been updated on our website. We will continue to update the website daily as test results data can change on a daily basis.

Six tests are currently at the lab awaiting results and the patients are under observation. We currently have Six people under investigation (PUIs). The lab specimens will be processed by Washington's public health laboratory and a commercial lab. County health officials will update their case and testing reports on their [COVID-19 webpage](#).

We continue to be working closely with health experts at Providence St. Mary Medical Center and the Washington State Department of Health to monitor PUIs.

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We are still learning about this virus and it's impact in our community. Health officials consider the community at large to be at low risk of exposure. We do recommend practicing personal and social responsibility. We continue to recommend all people living in the Walla Walla Valley take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 and influenza:

- **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces** that are often touched.
- **Take care of your health overall.** Staying current on your vaccinations, including flu vaccine, eating well and exercising all help your body stay resilient.
- **Stay Home.** If you are feeling sick with mild symptoms and do not need to seek medical care, stay home while you recover.
- **Stay Informed.** Consult CDC's travel website for any travel advisories and steps to protect yourself if you plan to travel outside of the US.
- At this time, we do not recommend canceling community event or public gatherings

Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms. If you are sick and plan to seek care, please call before going in for care so arrangements can be made to prevent exposing others. For urgent medical needs, call 911.

For more information:

- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>
- DOH guidance on Events and Public Gatherings:
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/RecommendationsForEventsandPublicGatherings.pdf>
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