



## WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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Main Telephone: (509) 524-2650 • Confidential Fax: (509) 524-2642 • Main Fax: (509) 524-2678

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Walla Walla County Announces First Local Case of COVID-19

Walla Walla, WA - Walla Walla County health officials are confirming that a local resident has tested positive for COVID-19. The Walla Walla County man in his 40s is under home isolation for fourteen days until he is fever free for 72-hours.

This case is not linked to foreign or domestic travel. The Department of Community Health (DCH) is working to identify anyone who may have an increased risk because of close contact with this person.

“We are surprised it has taken this long for a local case here in Walla Walla County,” said Meghan DeBolt, Director. “We have been expecting this and are prepared. Regardless of where the case was exposed, everyone can and should be taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

Health officials recommend practicing personal and social responsibility, in addition to the measures take by Governor Inslee to help protect health. 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.

**Always working for a safer, healthier and thriving Walla Walla County**



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- **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.

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>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>
- Department of Community Health: [https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/health\\_department/index.php](https://www.co.walla-walla.wa.us/government/health_department/index.php)

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