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 <u>no</u> identified presumed positive cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in residents of Walla Walla County.

Officials report there are currently seven (7) persons under investigation (PUIs) pending lab results. Six (6) PUIs are currently hospitalized at Providence St. Mary Medical Center and are in stable condition. One PUI is under home isolation and being monitored by public health daily. The lab specimens are being processed by Washington's public health laboratory. County health officials will update their case and testing reports on their COVID-19 webpage.

Health officials decided out of an abundance of caution to collect specimens for testing due to patient symptoms. In addition, with the presumed positive case of COVID-19 in Umatilla County, health officials want to monitor community transmission. We are working closely with health experts at Providence St. Mary Medical Center and the Washington State Department of Health to monitor all PUIs. At this time, it is safe to go to medical appointments and receive care at Providence St. Mary Medical Center, Urgent Care and local clinics.

Health officials consider the community at large to be at low risk of exposure. 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.

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

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- **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.

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

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