



Umatilla County Public Health

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For Immediate Release: March 30, 2020

Press Release: Umatilla County Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 5th confirmed positive case identified in Umatilla County

Umatilla County Public Health (UCo Health) recognizes community concern surrounding COVID-19. We are working with multiple health agencies and community partners to disseminate accurate and up-to-date information.

UCo Health now reports one new positive case of COVID-19 in Umatilla County. This individual is self-isolating at home. UCo Health takes every precaution to protect an individual's health information in regards to any reportable disease, and as such, we will not be releasing any demographic information, including the town in which this individual resides. An investigation is currently underway. UCo Health has been in contact with this individual and their family. Additionally, we have reached out to all identified close contacts to provide education and guidance.

UCo Health Director Joseph Fiumara stated, "As we have conducted these trace-back investigations, it has become evident that the residents of our county are practicing effective social distancing habits as outlined in the "Stay Home Save Lives" order. Continued compliance with these measures by every resident in Umatilla County will be key to containing the spread of COVID-19 in days to come."

UCo Health is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation as it evolves. The Oregon State Public Health Lab (OSPHL) and commercial laboratories that are processing samples collected from Umatilla County residents report **all** test results to UCo Health daily. UCo Health will be providing county specific test results including the total number of tests processed on our website www.ucohealth.net and will update these counts regularly.

In alignment with OHA, UCo Health will be issuing press releases once per day at around 1:00pm in the event that there are new cases to report.

UCo Health would like to reiterate that we are still in the middle of a severe cold and flu season and as such, every individual with flu-like symptoms does not need to be tested for COVID-19. COVID-19 testing will be ordered at the discretion of medical providers, **not** UCo Health, after individuals with respiratory symptoms are screened to rule out other potential causes such as pneumonia or influenza.

We are asking our Umatilla County residents to please call 211 with your questions regarding COVID-19. If you are exhibiting symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your primary care provider FIRST to discuss the next steps. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.

We will continue to update our Umatilla County Public Health Facebook page as new information becomes available. Please refer to the Oregon Health Authority and CDC COVID-19 websites for additional information.

For media inquiries please contact:
OHA Joint Information Center (JIC) staff
971-673-2097
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