Umatilla County Public Health

200 SE 3rd St., Pendleton, OR 97801
Pendleton: 541-278-5432   Hermiston: 541-567-3113
Fax: 541-278-5433   E-Mail: Health@umatillacounty.net
Website: www.ucohealth.net   www.facebook.com/umatillacountyhealth

For Immediate Release: March 11, 2020

Press Release: Umatilla County Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update; 1st case in Umatilla County confirmed by CDC, 2nd presumptive positive case identified

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 that CDC has officially confirmed COVID-19 infection in the presumptive positive case reported in Umatilla County on March 3. This individual is recovering well and no longer requires hospitalization.

As noted in the March 5 press release, additional samples have been collected for testing and UCo Health now reports a second presumptive positive case of COVID-19. This individual was in prolonged close contact with the first case and is recovering without requiring hospitalization. In keeping with testing guidelines, this sample will now be sent to CDC for official confirmation. UCo Health is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation as it evolves and is checking in daily with those being monitored due to close contact with the presumptive cases.

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. Medical providers will screen individuals with respiratory symptoms to rule out other potential causes such as pneumonia or influenza.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and UCo Health continue to recommend all people in Oregon take everyday precautions to prevent the spread of many 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.
- Face masks are not recommended for individuals who are **not** sick.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- If you are sick, **please stay home until recovered**.
- Take care of your health overall. Staying current on your vaccinations, including flu vaccine, eating well and exercising all help your body stay resilient.
- Consult CDC's travel website for any travel advisories and steps to protect yourself if you plan to travel outside of the US.

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. Do not go to urgent care, doctor's offices or the hospital with these symptoms without calling FIRST. 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 e-mail: health@umatillacounty.net