



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2020

Media Contact: Judy Ziels, Deputy Public Information Officer
Phone: (360) 296-3506
E-mail address: health-pio@co.whatcom.wa.us; jziels@co.whatcom.wa.us

Whatcom County Health Department Identifies Two New Cases of COVID-19

BELLINGHAM, WA –The Whatcom County Health Department has identified two new confirmed cases of [2019 novel coronavirus](#) (COVID-19) in Whatcom County. This brings the total number of confirmed cases in the county to five.

One new case is a male in his 40s. The second new case is a male in his 60s who is currently hospitalized. The case investigation is currently ongoing, but it appears that at least one of the cases has no known contact from a confirmed case.

What you can do

Personal prevention habits are effective for preventing COVID-19 infection. We continue to repeat these important action steps everyone can take to protect themselves.

- Maintain a distance of six feet from others whenever possible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces.
- Avoid gatherings of 10 or more people.

If you are sick, stay home

- If you are sick and have mild symptoms, stay home and take care of yourself as you would for a cold or flu.
- If you have severe symptoms and need medical care, call your regular doctor first.
- Do not go to the emergency room. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs.
- Your health care provider will determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

For more information on novel coronavirus

This is an emerging outbreak with rapidly evolving information. Updates will be made as new information is available on the [Washington State Department of Health website](#) and the [Whatcom County Health Department website](#). These websites include information for individuals, community organizations, schools and childcare facilities.

Questions for WCHD can also be emailed to covid@co.whatcom.wa.us

###

