

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 8/14/2025

TO: Grant Co. Healthcare Community

FOR INFORMATION CONTACTLexi Smith
Communication Coordinator
509-766-7960 EXT. 31
lsmith@granthealth.orgAmber McCoy
Investigations & Response Division Manager
509-766-7960 EXT 14
amccoy@granthealth.org

COVID-19 Activity Increasing in Grant County

Long-term Care Facility Outbreak sickens more than 45; three related COVID-19 deaths under investigation

GRANT COUNTY, WA – The Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has issued the following alert to the Grant County healthcare community regarding an outbreak in a long-term care facility in Moses Lake which coincides with a recent upward trend in COVID-19 activity.

GCHD staff are actively responding to a significant COVID-19 outbreak in a local long-term care facility, working closely with facility staff to contain the virus. The outbreak has sickened over 45 residents and staff, in addition to three associated deaths reported and under investigation to date.

In coordination with GCHD, the facility has implemented enhanced infection control measures, including isolation of cases, monitoring of exposed individuals, universal masking, appropriate PPE use, increased cleaning and disinfection, modified group activities and communal dining, and regular testing to quickly identify new cases. To further reduce transmission risk, GCHD and regional public health emergency response staff have also provided the facility with several commercial air purifiers to improve air quality.

This local outbreak is occurring alongside a broader increase in COVID-19 activity within Grant County, consistent with rising SARS-CoV-2 trends across Washington State and many parts of the

U.S., particularly in west coast states. It serves as a reminder that COVID-19 continues to cause severe outcomes in high-risk settings and populations, particularly among older adults and those with underlying health conditions.

COVID-19 Community Activity: In Grant County, emergency department visits and hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and wastewater surveillance data both indicate increasing community transmission. A similar trend is occurring nationwide as [COVID-19 infections](#) were growing or likely growing in 45 states as of August 5th and [viral concentrations in wastewater](#) shifted from “low” to “moderate” with the “west” region seeing the highest viral wastewater activity.

Healthcare Impact: Increased community activity may lead to higher demand for testing, clinical care, and hospital resources in the coming weeks.

Recommendations for Providers:

- **Testing:** Continue to test patients with respiratory symptoms or known exposures and report positive results to GCHD as required. A negative test in a person with symptoms and a recent COVID-19 exposure does not exclude a possibility of infection.
 - **Treatment:** Offer COVID-19 antiviral treatment to eligible patients as soon as possible after symptom onset. Early antiviral treatment remains critical to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death, particularly in older adults and medically vulnerable populations. Refer to [CDC treatment guidance](#).
 - **Vaccination:** Strongly encourage patients—especially those aged 50 and older, and particularly those over 65—to receive the most recent seasonal COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination remains the most effective way to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death in older adults and medically vulnerable populations. People 65 and older should receive 2 doses of the 24-25 COVID vaccine 6 months apart. [COVID-19 Vaccine Information | Washington State Department of Health](#)
 - **Infection Control:** Healthcare workers providing care to persons with respiratory illness or those with a recent COVID-19 exposure should always use a fitted N-95 mask and possibly other PPEs as indicated. GCHD encourages reinforcing masking, hand hygiene, and isolation
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precautions in healthcare and congregate settings where respiratory symptoms are present.

Immediately implement airborne precautions upon diagnosis or suspicion of COVID-19.

- **Reporting:** Notify GCHD immediately of outbreaks in healthcare settings and congregate settings by calling 509-766-7960 ext. 56, after hours: 509-398-2083, or fax: 509-764-2813.
 - An outbreak in a long-term care or similar congregate setting is defined as two or more residents and/or staff with confirmed COVID-19 within a 7-day period who are epidemiologically linked.
- **Provider Resources:**
 - [WA DOH COVID-19 Infection Prevention in Health Care Settings](#)
 - [CDC Infection Control Guidance: COVID-19](#)
 - [WA DOH COVID-19 Checklist for LTC Facilities](#)
 - [WA DOH Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings Toolkit](#)
 - [CDC Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with Infection or Exposure to COVID-19](#)
 - [CDC Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#)