



# SITUATION REPORT #81



**INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND**

DATE: June 25, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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**AFFECTED AREA:** Walla Walla, Washington

**CURRENT SITUATION:** COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center</b>	<b>Number</b>
Confirmed Cases	148
Recovered	120
Deaths	3
<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center</b>	
Confirmed Cases	4
<b>Tests Submitted –</b>	
Estimated Pending Tests Results	63
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	3889
<b>Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence</b>	
Burbank/Wallula	21
College Place	21
Dixie	0
Prescott	7
Touchet/Lowden	3
Waitsburg	0
Walla Walla	96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>



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Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	13
20-39	54
40-59	51
60-79	24
Over 80	6
<b>Confirmed Cases by Gender</b>	
	<b>Number</b>
Female	72
Male	76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: \* Case information updated. Remaining data will be updated tomorrow.**

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2<sup>nd</sup> request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 6/22/2020.
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.



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## 1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-20206516724	6/5/2020	SEOC- Cloth masks for 200% of low-income County residents	Delivered to BMAC
WA-20206229492	6/22/2020	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	In Process
WA-202061916830	6/19/2020	BMAC Foodbank Operations request	Completed

## 2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) met with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.
- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson’s and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH virtual meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Proactive work on PSA’s and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner’s Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.



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- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.
- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.
- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.
- Protocols developed by PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that were delayed.
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate's Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC's auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup. Workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses. Continued frequent meetings of the workgroup. Use of Chamber of Commerce website for posting documentation/guidance.
- Washington National Guard deployment extended for support of food bank operations to end of July/mid-August.
- Tour of PSMMC Alternate Care site, DCH isolation and quarantine sites, and Park Manor by DOH Med Surge Branch.
- DCYF, Whitman, and DCH debrief on activation of isolation and quarantine for Master's Ranch – West juveniles; successful collaboration.
- Approval of WWEM part-time temp position for logistics by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1 nurse and 1 disease investigator on staff over the weekend as cases come in over the weekend.
- All of our cases to date are from a known exposure; we're not seeing community spread.
- Arrival of 36,000 masks for low-income population in time for Governor's face mask mandate.

### 3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Case Counts –
  - Total Confirmed Cases: 148
    - ❖ Active: 25
    - ❖ Home Isolation: 22
    - ❖ Hospitalized: 2
  - Recovered: 120
  - Deaths: 3
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Significant reduction in Alaska Airlines flight availability out of Walla Walla Regional Airport.



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- Increase in crisis calls and behavioral health/substance abuse patients presenting at hospital; all have been higher acuity of care.
- Ongoing thoughtful, timely communications.
- Multiple testing platforms needed to overcome COVID19 testing challenges.
- Rampant unemployment claim fraud.
- Shortages in the supply chain for disinfecting supplies.
- Increased call volume to DCH Environment Health division about PPE requirements at businesses.
- Since there is no testing for people who are asymptomatic, they are required to self-isolate for 14-days if exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive. This negatively impacts businesses starting to reopen. More testing capability needed.
- Gap in planning for pediatrics with kids returning to school in the Fall.
- Mask requirements for reopening of schools – further clarification needed (will face shields be acceptable for teachers?), availability of pediatric face masks, impact on supply chain.
- Yakima, Benton, Franklin and Spokane Counties are seeing a significant surge in cases from community transmission (comparable to Seattle in March). Continued concerns about nonessential travel to/from these counties causing an increase in our case count. Seeing an increase in tourism in the community; hotels are filling up, increased numbers of people in Downtown Walla Walla; people coming from out of county for wine tasting, dining, personal services (hair appointments, manicures, massage, etc.), and other reasons. Walla Walla Union Bulletin 6/19/20 article: “**An influx of visitors has businesses grappling between the economy and public health**” <https://bit.ly/2zTZYG1>
- We are still at Phase 2 and need to continue to follow Phase 2 guidance.
- Recent DSHS guidance (ALISA: NH #2020-041) that allows long-term care residents to go out into the community and return to the facility without requirement of isolation. Restoration of resident rights must be done in a well-planned manner to protect this vulnerable populations and the safety of the community as a whole.
- Businesses not adhering to requirements that employees wear masks.
- Report from Walla Walla Clinic that they are starting to see shortage of needles in the supply chain.
- Anticipate lots of inquiries about Governor Inslee’s mask requirement mandate.
- Challenges with Washington State Penitentiary; communication about positive inmate, transfer of incarcerated to/from Coyote Ridge where there has been an outbreak.

#### 4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM coordination with WSDA and Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) for Food Assistance Program.
- WWEM continued collection of donations from the community.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC).
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- Submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.



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- [DCH is working to develop a Spanish-language outreach program to improve message to Spanish speaking community.](#)
- Unified Command EOC conference calls, Monday-Wednesday-Friday.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services conference calls.
- PSMCM maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- Case investigation/contact tracing of positive case.
- Continued LTC/SNF/ALF isolation/surge planning/coordination.
- Ongoing communications of the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations.
- DCH working on communications for moving into Phase 3; prevention strategies and accessing care information for public dissemination.
- Reopening Business Workgroup will continue its weekly Business Resource Town Hall, The Governor's template for businesses in Phase 3 has been added to website, will be translated to Spanish and posted. <https://www.wvwchamber.com/business-resources> Visit Walla Walla invited to join workgroup.
- Awaiting decision for Walla Walla County's request for Phase 3 with variance.
- Virginia Mason (Yakima) is at capacity; discussion tomorrow with hospitals and health care coalitions about patient movement/tracking.
- Cloth masks from the State for low-income population arrived at Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) yesterday; planning for distribution and tracking continuing.
- DCH will be looking into policy language around addressing the complaints for people claiming medical conditions for non-masking and share with the Command Team.

**Prepared By:** Patrick Purcell, Walla Walla County Emergency Management Coordinator, 509-524-2901/ppurcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us

## REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 6/25 3:00-4:00

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- June 25:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH will partner with surrounding Health Departments in Benton, Franklin and Yakima Counties to create a full-page ad for local newspaper LaVoz to encourage the use of face coverings
- DCH convened meeting with local schools to review and discuss plans for opening in the fall. Discussions around risks and challenges, sports activities, sharing plans and ideas to support each other through development and implementation of safety plans
- DCH working closely with LTC/AFL/SNFs on monitoring DSHS and DOH visitation requirements
- DCH is developing Spanish language materials to distribute to various Spanish language community settings by DCH staff and volunteers, dates tbd



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- DCH convened a Walla Walla Co. Reopening work group meetings held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon to review guidelines and to align messaging and customize the guidance to our local businesses.
- DCH Communications team developed PSAs in Spanish, will be airing 2x day on local radio
- Providence's Population Health team of nurses and social workers has monitored over **3048** patients from the Walla Walla Valley. All were tested for COVID-19 and were symptomatic.
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH Environmental Health team is providing consults for businesses.
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with symptoms
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am M-F
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>
- DCH attending daily DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- Counties & Cities continue working online, telephone, virtual to limit interactions with the public
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: [www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**ANTICIPATED NEEDS:** Contact tracing.

## WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

### Web Site Information:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- 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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Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

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**DISTRIBUTED TO:** Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office