



SITUATION REPORT #83



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: June 29, 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

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	Number
Confirmed Cases	164
Recovered	126
Deaths	3
2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	
Confirmed Cases	4
Tests Submitted –	
Estimated Pending Tests Results	52
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	4103
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	
Burbank/Wallula	26
College Place	22
Dixie	0
Prescott	7
Touchet/Lowden	4
Waitsburg	0
Walla Walla	105
TOTAL	164



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Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	14
20-39	62
40-59	55
60-79	27
Over 80	6
Confirmed Cases by Gender	
	Number
Female	82
Male	82
TOTAL	164

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- 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 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 6/29/2020.
- 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-2020629826	6/29/2020	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	In Transit

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.
- 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.



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- 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. Rapid distribution by Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC).
- With the assistance of DCH, PSMMC received Remdesivir.
- Concerns for availability of childcare for essential workers.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Case Counts –
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 164
 - Active: 41
 - ❖ Home Isolation: 39
 - ❖ 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. **Update: Alaska Airlines is aiming for August to possibly restore a flight to the airport. <https://bit.ly/3eLvQLZ>**
- Increase in crisis calls and behavioral health/substance abuse patients presenting at hospital; all have been higher acuity of care.



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- Ongoing thoughtful, timely communications.
- Multiple testing platforms needed to overcome COVID19 testing challenges.
- Shortages in the supply chain for disinfecting supplies.
- Gap in planning for pediatrics with kids returning to school in the Fall.
- **Proximity to hotspots (other counties)**; 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.
- 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.
- Lots of inquiries about Governor Inslee's mask requirement mandate.
- Challenges with Washington State Penitentiary (WSP); communication about positive inmate, transfer of incarcerated to/from Coyote Ridge where there has been an outbreak. **WSP Covid19 cases are attributed to the county where they receive their mail, but they have an impact on Walla Walla County healthcare systems.**
- Increase in number of cases in the community.

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 to coordinate with BMAC for completion of State staffing needs survey in anticipation of WNG standing down at the end of July.
- 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.
- 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 weekly conference calls.
- PSMCC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Continued LTC/SNF/ALF isolation/surge planning/coordination.



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- 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. <https://www.wvwchamber.com/business-resources> Visit Walla Walla has joined the workgroup. Developing messaging for people coming to Walla Walla about being safe. Visit Walla Walla kiosk will have masks to give out to visitors who arrive without one. Working with hotels for potential mask distribution. 'Shop Local' messaging going out.
- Awaiting decision for Walla Walla County's request for Phase 3 with variance.
- DCH revisiting isolation and quarantine and reviewing MOUs for potential non-congregate housing locations.
- June 30th Cephid testing machine delivery at PSMMC anticipated; validation to follow.
- BMAC staff will distribute fabric masks to low-income individuals and families on June 30th from 9 am to 11 am at:
 - Corner of Cherry & Colville (near BMAC office parking lot, 8 E, Cherry)
 - Lincoln High School: 421 S. 4th (front entrance parking lot)
 - Washington Park 700 W. Cherry St. (near the splash platform)
 - Jefferson Park 750 Sprague St. (near downtown parking lot for older)
- PSMMC has been doing surge planning all along but is 'stepping up' planning with current increase in case counts.
- Notable increase in younger demographic for positive cases.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition (HCC) Patient Placement Coordination Meeting on June 30 to support potential activation of REDi HCC Patient Placement (DMCC) annex.
- Due to the increase in number of cases of COVID-19 in pockets of eastern Washington, REDi HCC staff are facilitating a weekly regional virtual meeting where leads from local health jurisdictions (public health), Emergency Management, EMS, and healthcare gather virtually to provide updates regarding COVID cases in their county, data trends, response gaps/needs, and successes.

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 7/1 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- June 29:

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

- DCH sent a letter to Long-Term Care Facilities discussing alignment on 'Compassionate Care' visits and how to continue to protect resident's health. DCH working closely with LTC/AFL/SNFs on monitoring DSHS and DOH visitation requirements



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- 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 is developing Spanish language materials to distribute to various Spanish language community settings by DCH staff and volunteers
- 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 per 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, W, F
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, June 30th
- 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
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** 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:



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- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: 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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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