



# SITUATION REPORT #97



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

DATE: August 6, 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	496
Recovered	347
Deaths	3
<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center</b>	
Confirmed Cases	1
<b>Tests Submitted –</b>	
Estimated Pending Tests Results	150+
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	7331
<b>Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence</b>	
Burbank/Wallula	49
College Place	72
Dixie	2
Prescott	28
Touchet/Lowden	6
Waitsburg	1
Walla Walla	338
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>496</b>



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Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	65
20-39	199
40-59	156
60-79	62
Over 80	14
<b>Confirmed Cases by Gender</b>	
	<b>Number</b>
Female	233
Male	263
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>496</b>

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 8/14/2020
- 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-20208393	8/3/2020	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	Out for Delivery
WA-202072915789	7/30/2020	SMMC: Request for trailer	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.
- 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.



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- 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.
- 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) to nearly 30 agencies and on 6/30/20 at 4 locations in the community.
- With the assistance of DCH, PSMMC received Remdesivir.
- DCH and PSMMC community outreach event at First Fruits; mask distribution and information sharing.
- Reopening workgroup recommendation – though no longer required for businesses, a contact log is a good practice.
- Having COVID safety plans in place at businesses benefits successful response to positive employees, as seen recently at a local restaurant.
- City of College Place Hand sanitizer and mask drive-through distribution on 7/7/20 (300 vehicles) and 7/9/20 (400 vehicles). Handout at their booth at Thursday Farmers Market.
- Meeting on 7/8/20 with DCH/WWEM/USFS/DNR to discuss preplanning for COVID testing, isolation and quarantine.
- Al fresco dining in Downtown Walla Walla and College Place are working well.
- CEPHEID rapid testing machine is now being fully utilized by PSMMC at full capacity.
- Planning for isolation and quarantine of wildland firefighters with use of space at Walla Walla Community College.
- DCH work with large Oregon employer to coordinate cases with Umatilla County; providing education and resources (Health Fair) for employees.
- Hand washing stations at several locations in Downtown Walla Walla.
- [Washington National Guard Title 32 extension through Christmas](#). WNG are a critical to local food bank operations.



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## 3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases–
  - Total Confirmed Cases: 496
    - Active: 150
      - ❖ Home Isolation: 143
      - ❖ Hospitalized: 8 – Walla Walla County residents, 1– out of county
    - Recovered: 340
    - Deaths: 3
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Ongoing thoughtful, timely communications.
- Multiple testing platforms needed to overcome COVID testing challenges.
- [DCH Spanish-language outreach program to improve messaging to Spanish speaking community.](#)
- There are production shortages of rapid testing supplies for the new Cepheid machine. PSMMC is, for now, limited to 180 kits per week.
- **Critical** shortage of disinfectant; no wipes delivered yet, some solution though not sure if it is solution that can be utilized.
- High rate of COVID cases in neighboring counties in both WA and OR. Continued concerns about nonessential travel to/from these counties causing an increase in our case count.
- Overlap among counties for services, work, medical care and families. P
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Long test result turnaround time is making it difficult to keep PUI cases under self-quarantine.
- Case investigation slowed by contacts not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Asymptomatic testing requests increasing (can impact the time for symptomatic testing turn around if implemented).
- Lab test turnaround time is still a challenge but improving. Improvements anticipated with LabCorp when they expand their testing capacity in August.
- Continued increase in number of cases in the community. Gatherings are driving up county numbers, seeing household member transmissions.
- Governor’s most recent orders are more restrictive for restaurants.
- Availability of child-sized masks for those who cannot afford them. (State-level planning is ongoing to supply communities.)
- PSMMC implemented reduced hours of operation for drive through COVID testing when temps were well over 100 degrees. Reduced hours will continue even though temps have dropped down to the 90s; will be reevaluated. Other health-care providers are operating with reduced hours for testing due to heat.
- Outbreak at Washington State Penitentiary; continuing to see cases. 54 incarcerated positive and 7 staff positive as of this morning’s DOC report from REDi HCC.
- PSMMC ER is seeing large number of individuals presenting with COVID symptoms; 15 – 20 PUI daily.
- Implementation of Governor Inslee’s new screening requirements for airports presents challenges. The Port of Walla Walla doesn’t not have enforcement capability, screening process adds additional cost to the airport.
- REDi HCC reports increase in test rate positivity in Eastern Washington.



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- Rite-Aid drive through testing reporting issues; DCH is contacting individuals with positive results and these individuals are reporting that they were told that their test result was negative.
- Concerns about school not reopening: Port of Walla Walla reports that they are getting a few businesses asking about childcare opportunities, since both parents are either back at work or working from home and cannot focus on children's education. If schools cannot open to face-to-face, how childcare and daycare facilities can operate with similar number of children?

#### 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.
- Unified Command EOC conference calls; Monday-Thursday.
- 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.
- 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.
- Reopening Business Workgroup:
  - Weekly Business Resource Town Hall (T/Th, 9 am)
  - Visitor's Center kiosk on Main Street giving out masks
  - Continue 'safe visit' messaging for people coming to Walla Walla from high COVID areas
  - Masks are being given out at hotels, short-term rentals or visitors (Chamber of Commerce distributing to hospitality businesses)
  - Continue distribution of masks (ag and low-income, others)
  - 50,000 educational postcards have arrived and are being distributed to lodging businesses (B&B, hotels, and other short-term rental enterprises)
  - New survey for hospitality industry to identify needs of businesses not in the Downtown Walla Walla area
  - Chamber of Commerce reports that 25 – 30% of visitors arrive without a face covering and no knowledge of restrictions at restaurants, wineries, and other businesses. They are hearing 'Walla Walla is open.'



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- 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.
- DCH working on 30-day extensions for FEMA approval of non-congregate housing for isolation and quarantine.
- DCH and PSMMC Health Fairs; education, masks, CDC flyer (including Spanish-language information with a bilingual team)
  - Smith Frozen Foods (Oregon), August 6th, two shifts to reach 270-300 employees (more of their cases are Walla Walla County residents than are from Umatilla County)
  - First Fruits, tentatively August 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Tyson Fresh Meats, tentatively August 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Salvation Army foodbank operations (information in food boxes)
  - Valle Lindo Homes (Walla Walla Housing Authority farmworkers housing), TBD
- DCH and PSMMC working with Washington State Department of Corrections for increase in case count at Washington State Penitentiary. PSMMC has been in close contact with DOC they do have capacity to handle; cases are mostly mild or asymptomatic. Cell block testing completed of 132 incarcerated individuals.
- Tracking resource request with SEOC for air conditioned trailer for drive thru at PSMMC Southgate location; needed due to temps over 100 degrees limiting testing capacity.
- [Inslee announces education recommendations for 2020–2021 school year](#). DCH will be working closing with the school districts in the county on implementation. Reopening will vary within the county as infection rates differ from city to city.
- College Place has placed an order for another drive through mask & hand sanitizer give away; to be held in the next couple of weeks.
- DCH working with Blue Mountain Action Council on rental assistance grant application.
- DCH is still working with Rite-Aid on reporting of test results. Reporting test results has not been consistent; DOH involvement to address issues.
- REDI upcoming training: August 6 Patient Place and August 7 Patient Tracking (Audience: EMS, EMD, PH, Hospitals)
- REDI HCC reports that fall influenza surge planning is underway.

**Prepared By:** Liz Jessee & Patrick Purcell, Emergency Management Coordinator, 509-524-2901 or ppurcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us

## REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 8/12 3:00-4:00

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- August 6:

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



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- DOC conducted testing at Washington State Penitentiary for staff and inmates
- DCH partnering with large agriculture businesses to provide education and distribute face masks; Health Fairs are planned for the next three weeks
- DCH 'Health Space' training is August 4<sup>th</sup> for health data management
- DCH, Emergency Management, and neighboring SE counties collaborative meeting with US Forest Service and DNR planning for safety during Wildfire season response relating to Covid-19
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH is working with CMBell to develop 30 second video clips and radio ads to increase our Spanish language outreach
- 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 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 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
- 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 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 (hours are now limited due to heat concerns between 6am-12pm)
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</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.

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

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- 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: [509-524-2650](tel:509-524-2650)

### 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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**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