

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Klickitat County Public Health  
Contact: Erinn Quinn, MSN, ARNP  
Director for Klickitat County Public Health  
(509) 773-4565 or [publichealthpio@klickitatcounty.org](mailto:publichealthpio@klickitatcounty.org)  
[www.klickitatcounty.org](http://www.klickitatcounty.org)



### **Klickitat County Reports Increase in Active COVID-19 Cases**

*Klickitat County Health Department investigates new cases and makes holiday recommendations*

**Goldendale, WA, November 18, 2020** – The Klickitat County Health Department (KCHD) is reporting the highest case count Klickitat County has seen since mid-August. This increase in new COVID-19 cases over the last two weeks is a trend seen throughout Washington state and nationwide. Contributing to the uptick in new cases in Klickitat County are small social gatherings in residential homes. For this reason, KCHD is offering recommendations for residents during the holiday season.

KCHD urges Klickitat County residents to make safe choices when celebrating the holidays this year. For the safety of your friends, family, and our community, it is recommended that you do not attend or host an in-person holiday gathering if any of the following apply to you.

- You or someone you live with has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not met the criteria for when it is safe to be around others
- You or someone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms
- You are currently waiting for COVID-19 viral test results
- You are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19
- You are an older adult with certain medical conditions who is at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, or live or work with someone at increased risk of severe illness
- For more recommendations from the CDC on holiday celebrations and small gatherings please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

“Klickitat County Health Department is actively working with the community to provide health guidance for business, families, and healthcare providers. We know that the holidays are a special time and would like everyone to remember to be safe and use precautions.” states Erinn Quinn, Director for Klickitat County Public Health.

This week Governor Jay Inslee also announced that there would be a four-week statewide set of restrictions. This is in response to the recent and rapid increase in COVID-19 cases statewide and nationwide. Please review the following link for detailed COVID-19 guidance from the State of Washington:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/COVID%2019%20November%20Statewide%20Restrictions.pdf>

You can help slow the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a face mask that covers your nose and mouth when you are in public, washing your hands, and staying home when you are sick. It is also highly recommended that the public avoid large gatherings and events even if they are hosted outside. Currently in Phase 2, the state recommendation is to not gather with more than five people outside your household per week and to wear a mask during that time.

If you are currently experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, please contact your primary care provider about getting tested. COVID-19 symptoms can be different for everyone but generally include some of the following: fever, chills, headache, muscle aches or pains, sore throat, sinus congestion, dry or productive cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or cramps, loss of smell or taste, and fatigue. Anyone with symptoms can be tested in Klickitat County by calling to make an appointment at Klickitat Valley Health, Skyline Health, or Northshore Medical Group.

### **About Klickitat County Public Health**

Klickitat County Public Health is always working for a safer and healthier community. As the region's public health leader and partner, we are committed to excellence through innovative programs, community partnerships and a fundamental dedication to promote and protect the health of all Klickitat County residents.

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#### **For More Information:**

Klickitat County Public Health: [www.klickitatcounty.org/289/Public-Health](http://www.klickitatcounty.org/289/Public-Health)

Klickitat Valley Health: [www.kvhealth.net](http://www.kvhealth.net)

Skyline Health: [www.myskylinehealth.org](http://www.myskylinehealth.org)

Northshore Medical Group: [www.northshore-medical.com](http://www.northshore-medical.com)

COVID-19 Risk Assessment Dashboard:

<https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/covid-19-risk-assessment-dashboard>