

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Date: May 21, 2020

Contact: Kasey Knutson, Public Information Officer, (509) 962-7515

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### **Kittitas County Must Mitigate COVID-19 Exposure Risk over Memorial Day Weekend**

Kittitas County is asking everyone in Washington State to follow their county restrictions in response to COVID-19, especially in response to Memorial Day weekend. We are asking tourists to not visit Kittitas County at this time. There is absolutely no overnight camping anywhere in Kittitas County at this time. We must mitigate COVID-19 exposure risk over Memorial Day weekend as we prepare for the potential to move into Phase 2 on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

The Kittitas County Incident Team (IMT) has sent a request to the lead Public Information Officer at the State for assistance in spreading the message urging people to not visit Kittitas County at this time and to follow the laws in place for their county of residence. The IMT has reached out to businesses that may be affected by people entering Kittitas County against COVID-19 regulations. The IMT has reached out to specific areas that tend to see an increase in tourist activity during this holiday weekend, which include Vantage, Cle Elum, and Roslyn.

Kittitas County residents are also urged to help mitigate exposure over Memorial Day weekend by staying home. If you are out, please wear masks if you are unable to maintain six foot physical distance.

We will be submitting a report to the Secretary of Health John Wiesman on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in order to move forward with our Phase 2 variance application. The report will wrap up the IMT's response to the known outbreak at Twin City Foods, but it will also report on our ability to coordinate efforts to prevent more outbreaks in the future.

If your business is concerned about potential exposure over Memorial Day Weekend, please contact the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). If you have questions about your health, please contact your healthcare provider or you can call the Temporary COVID Clinic at KVH at 509-933-8850. If you are having a medical emergency, call 911 or go to the Emergency Department at KVH. If you have general questions about COVID-19, please call the EOC at 509-933-8315 or 509-933-8305.

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