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CATEGORY: News Release

RELEASE DATE: For Immediate Release

REGARDING: Increased COVID-19 Disease Activity

COVID-19 transmission has dramatically increased in Ferry and Stevens Counties. In order to slow the spread, it is crucial that residents and visitors take necessary precautions and get vaccinated to protect themselves, family, and friends.

After more than a year of masking, social distancing, and maintaining small gathering sizes, we are all eager to return to “normal”. Unfortunately, given the contagious nature of COVID-19 and the role of variants, relaxing precautionary measures and participating in higher risk activities can imperil the health of community members and jeopardize schools’ and businesses’ ability to remain open.

In the last two weeks, an event in Ferry County has demonstrated the danger of relaxing precautionary measures due to a gathering held in Republic. Though new cases are still being reported, currently there are 71 cases involving attendees or their close contacts who have tested positive and 4 hospitalizations. For those hospitalized and ill, Northeast Tri County Health District staff hope for a full recovery.

This outbreak has significantly impacted Ferry County Health, and a multitude of businesses/facilities within the community. The rapid spread that occurred in Ferry County could easily occur in any of the three counties when we start to relax precautionary measures.

We are in this together and there are solutions. Vaccination is one tool to end the pandemic and everyone ages 16 and older is eligible for vaccination. To schedule your free vaccination, please visit www.netchd.org or call the Northeast Tri County Health District Call Center at 509-684-2262 option 4.

In addition to vaccination, we must continue using precautions that slow transmission. These include:

- Wearing masks in public spaces, even if fully vaccinated
- Staying home when sick and getting tested for COVID-19
- Maintaining a social distance of 6’ around non-household individuals
- When gathering with others, be outdoors
- Following reopening guidance for businesses and community activities

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Stevens County - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114

Administration Phone: 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-1002

Community Health Phone: 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-9878

Environmental Health Phone: 509-684-2262, Fax: 509-684-8506

Ferry County - 147 N. Clark, PO Box 584, Republic, WA 99166

Phone: 509-775-3111, Fax: 509-775-2858

Pend Oreille County - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156

Phone: 509-447-3131, Fax: 509-447-5644