

KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
VIDEO UPDATE
Tuesday, November 10, 2020

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Today's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCVvIqv7XgE>

KCPHD channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyQzBwJLbkLj7WueKJ5w7mQ/>

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Good morning, it's Mark Larson talking about COVID-19 in Kittitas County.

Our numbers are going down, which is a good thing. Our incident rate is 216.9, down from 270.6 last week, and our percent positive rate is 5.5%, down from 7.9% last week.

The Health Department is doing well with case and contact investigation and the hospital is doing well taking care of patients with COVID-19, of which there are currently none.

Central Washington University is also doing well. They have four active cases among the students right now. They did have a little bit of an uptick of positive cases after Halloween, but we haven't seen further cases there.

We didn't see any further cases in the K-12 school district in the last week either.

This is all really good information.

The interesting part of the information is what is happening in the community as a whole. CWU students are ready to go home for the Thanksgiving holiday. They are offering exit testing on Thursday and Friday in order to protect the communities where the students are going.

The students don't return until January, so our numbers will continue to go down as a result. It's really our responsibility, then, to take care of the rest of the issues.

So far in November, we've had three Central Washington University students test positive, and 41 non-student community members test positive. That means we're still spreading the disease amongst ourselves. That is happening in small groups, in our homes when we have friends over to watch the Seahawks and don't pay

attention to masking, plus the holidays are coming up.

Thanksgiving will not be normal this year. We should have small-group, not large-group, get togethers, and just with our immediate families. We are asking the community to do something different this year in order to keep our numbers down, and to keep the K12 schools actively involved in their hybrid models. To do that, we have to change our behavior.

Activities outside are better than inside, small groups are better than large groups, and not sharing food are all important. Just because we can do something doesn't mean we *should*. We talked about that in April and May and we have to look at that again going into the holidays.

Be thinking about the holidays. There will be a lot coming out (press releases, letters from President Guadino at the college, etc.). If you're planning on traveling to visit family over the holiday, maybe think about that. Is maybe ask if that's what we should be doing this year. We want to get to the point where next year will be better.

I will talk a little bit about the Pfizer vaccine. The preliminary data looks good. I haven't seen the actual data yet, but they're talking about a greater than 90% effectiveness rate. There should be some vaccines coming out later this year, or early next year.

If the FDA says the vaccines are safe and effective, the state of Washington will also look at that data so we can make sure you'll be getting a safe and effective vaccine.

Take care. Enjoy this beautiful day today, and we'll talk to you soon. Thanks a lot.

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