

KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
DAILY VIDEO UPDATE
Tuesday, August 04, 2020

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Good afternoon, it's Dr. Larson here to talk about COVID-19 in Kittitas County.

Today is Election Day, so make sure you get your ballot in before 8:00 PM.

We continue to have new COVID-19 cases come in daily. This is community-wide, involving a variety of people from Vantage up to Cle Elum and Roslyn, and all in different scenarios. It's not in just long-term care facilities or in health care.

Our incident rate is still have a rate of well over 200 per 100,000 per 14 days. It's actually 227.

When it comes to reopening schools safely, we need less community-wide spread before that can happen. If the schools open, then they'll have a case develop and the schools would have to close again (or they'd have to isolate kids and that type of thing).

The schools are working hard to figure these things out. Cle Elum-Roslyn and Easton have both made the decision to open with online schooling to start, and they will reevaluate after 4-6 weeks. The hope is that numbers will be going down by then.

The incident rate in Kittitas County is the highest of the Phase 3 counties. That tells us that you and I are out in the community way too much. We're not staying home, we're not social distancing, we're not wearing masks, etc. We're the ones responsible for bringing the disease into the nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

A lot of counties have had outbreaks in long-term care, but they haven't had as many deaths as we've had. We're also leading in the death percentage in long-term care facilities and that's not a good place to be.

To correct these things, we all need to work together.

Today's message is short: Remember, everyone is hurting and we're in a difficult situation. We're all responsible for moving

forward. If you're a business person who wants economic recovery, we have to wear masks, do social distancing, not have large wedding celebrations, etc. In our county, there should be no more than 10 people getting together. We can't even have jury trials right now.

Once numbers come down, we can have juries again, as well as youth sports, school sports, etc. But this requires effort from all of us.

At Public Health, we're doing case and contact investigation, working on immunization, and working on making sure people are safe. We are asking business owners, coaches, teachers, etc., "What are you doing to make it better so that we can have school in the fall?"

And you need to ask yourself what you are doing. Are you staying at home? Are you keeping the small bubble in place?

We can do this as a community. Even if the rest of the state is having a hard time, we can do better.

Be kind, remember everyone is having a hard time, and ask yourself what you're doing to make things better.

Have a good day. We'll talk again on Friday. Thank you.

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