

KITTITAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
DAILY VIDEO UPDATE
Friday, August 07, 2020

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Good afternoon. It's Dr. Larson talking about COVID-19 and Public Health.

We continue to have community-wide spread. We had five new cases today, which were throughout our communities (one in Kittitas, one in Cle Elum, and three in Ellensburg). None were related to our current outbreaks. When we're out and about, we're being exposed to people with COVID-19.

Our numbers are coming down. We did make some changes to allow jury trials to start. We looked at the safety plans of the folks at the courthouse, and we also know that the ability to have a speedy trial be peers is guaranteed by the United States Constitution. There's a jury trial starting next week, I think.

Other than that, all activities -- other than churches -- are restricted to less than 10 people. That mean no baseball games, no soccer games, no backyard barbecues with more than 10 people, etc. Each of those 10 people shares their lives with other people, and with community wide spread, those people share disease with others.

We need to grab a hold of this as a community in order to start school in the fall. We need to support each other, and get the kids back to school. That way, parents can get back to work. We can deal with the depression that canon arise when people are at home, and we can make things better.

The responsibility for this is on all of us. If you have a wedding or a political rally or a rodeo event planned, there should be fewer than 10 people there (or it should be canceled). This is enforceable.

It's not just an ask, it's a law. If we want to move forward as a community, we really can't be doing those things.

I spoke at length with the Secretary of Health, the Governor's Office, and the state Public Health officer about whether Kittitas County should move back to Phase 2. We do not deserve to be in Phase 3 right now. Our community is not doing what we need to do.

It's not the businesses creating the problem, it's us as a community doing that. It doesn't make sense as a community to move back into Phase 2 if was individuals are not willing to do our part. Don't have big backyard barbecues, don't have graduation parties, don't have wedding receptions.

I've asked the Governor and Sheriff Clay Meyers for more enforcement of the laws we already have. If your business is not masking, you can expect to have a visit from Labor and Industry. If you serve alcohol and you're not masking, you can expect a visit from the Liquor Board.

We get complaints every day about businesses. I send letters when I get those. Most of the time, the letter alone is enough to convince the business to make changes for the community.

Others out in the community can expect more people coming up to them, saying they shouldn't be having a big event (even though it's on private property) because it's not really allowed.

This is all so we can move forward as a community. We want to get the kids back to school. We need to get our numbers down to a reasonable level so that we're not starting and stopping school. We are all responsible to do that.

We had another death in a long-term care facility today. That brings us to 19 people in our community who have died because of COVID-19. 19. Those are people's mothers, grandfathers, people who have lived in this community for a long time.

Think about this. Remember to stay home, and to wear your mask. Be kind. Everyone is having a hard time. People yelling and screaming are having a hard time.

Think about the kids, think about our future, let's get them back to school. See you next week. Thanks.

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Transcription provided by:
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