

## **Chehalis Tribal Community,**

We recognize that these are challenging times as we take on the COVID-19 pandemic together; given the recent increase in social gatherings, we want to let you know that our tribal clinic has had our first positive covid-19 case. We also want to assure you that we have prepared for this and our staff and any visitors/patients to the clinic are not at increased risk. We continue to take careful precautions to keep you safe while you are here.

After careful review of this case, we do not believe there is an increase risk to our community at this time. Rest assured that if you are at an increased risk, you will be notified by our clinic staff for appropriate measures/follow up.

The clinic and tribe has not taken closures or reopening lightly, and we want to remind you that it is important to continue to be vigilant. In recent days, traveling and private gatherings with family and friends are common ways people are contracting COVID-19. If you must gather, outdoors is better than indoors. The advice for preventing COVID-19 remains the same: cover your cough, wash your hands often, sanitize when washing is not available, wear a mask and stay more than six feet from people who are not part of your household and limit unnecessary travel. Continue to use digital means to keep up with friends and family.

If you live **off** the reservation, you may hear from a **public health** contact tracer or epidemiologists who will interview every person who has a positive COVID-19 test. If you live **on** the reservation, you may hear from the **Tribal Wellness Center** contract tracer. Contact tracers try to determine how people got sick and if anyone else they encountered might be at risk of getting sick. It is really important to share the names of people with whom you have had **close contact**, meaning **you have been closer than six feet for fifteen minutes or longer**. This information is completely confidential. They will only collect what is needed to see who else might be sick and to provide resources. They will not ask for private information such as social security number or bank information. The goal in contact tracing is to find out how people are getting sick and to break the cycle.

When we know someone has been exposed by **close contact**, they will be asked to quarantine at home for 14 days while watching for symptoms of COVID-19. This is to prevent other people from getting sick. By staying home after an exposure to COVID-19, we are doing our part to not make the people around us sick.

Please keep in mind we do not release the name of the person testing positive for COVID without their permission. Even with their permission it will only be to their close contacts and not a community announcement. Someone is believed to possibly be contagious 48 hours previous to their symptoms so the contact tracers will find out who they have been in contact within this **48 hour** time frame and after.

As always, please feel free to call the clinic with any questions or concerns you may have. Your partners in health, the Chehalis Tribal Wellness Center.

