

November 19, 2020

**CATEGORY:** News Release

**RELEASE DATE:** For Immediate Release

**REGARDING:** Surge in COVID-19 Cases Outpacing Ability to Conduct Close Contact Tracing

In Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties there is a surge in overall cases of COVID-19. The recent surge has outpaced the ability for Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) staff to conduct contact tracing for close contacts. At this time, NETCHD staff are focusing on contacting positive cases, but we are not able to complete [close contact](#) follow ups. If you are a close contact of a positive case, it is unlikely that you will be contacted by NETCHD staff. A close contact is a person who has been within 6 feet, for 15 minutes or more, of someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home, and participate in the follow up call from NETCHD staff. We ask that you notify your close contacts and advise them to stay home for 14 days from the last time you were in contact with them. Your close contacts should be tested 5-7 days after they were last in contact or sooner if [symptoms](#) appear.

Helpful information can be found on the Health District's website at <https://www.netchd.org/>. Other helpful resources include:

[What to do if you have confirmed or suspected coronavirus](#)

[What to do if you were potentially exposed to someone with confirmed coronavirus disease](#)

[When to Quarantine](#)

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