

News Release

For immediate release: January 13, 2021

Contact: Chris Skidmore, Interim Director of Public Health, 509-397-6280 – Ben Stone, Public Information Officer, 509-397-6280

Whitman County has received 14 new positive COVID-19 test results today, bringing the County total, to date, to 2958. All other cases are stable and self-isolating.

**Eastern Region metrics and trends reported as of 1/8/2021**

New Cases		
Age Range	Female	Male
0-19	2	3
20-39	3	4
40-59	1	0
60-79	0	1
80+	0	0

	Current	Target
14-day trend in COVID-19 cases	-28%	-10%
14-day trend in hospitalization	+22%	-10%
7-day trend in ICU staffed bed occupancy	69%	Less than 90%
7-day percent positive for COVID-19	17%	Less than 10%

The eastern region must meet all 4 metrics in order to move into the next phase.

Whitman County will now be reporting the number of deaths and hospitalizations according to the Washington State Department of Health, rather than local tracking methods used previously. Number of “currently hospitalized” residents will no longer be reported. Using the state reported information is a clearer picture of the actual data because it will also reflect Whitman County residents that have been hospitalized or died outside of the county. The numbers in today’s report will reflect deaths not previously counted by Whitman County. To explore the data available at the state Department of Health, visit <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard> . Total deaths, to date, are 33.

Whitman County is in the process of COVID-19 vaccine administration in partnership with local area providers. Whitman County Public Health is currently in Phase 1A of the phased distribution framework laid out by the CDC and the Washington Dept. of Health. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/VaccineAllocationPhase1A.pdf>

As more vaccine becomes available and supplies allow us to move into Phase 1B we will follow all CDC and DOH guidance to prioritize distribution. Whitman County Public Health would like to encourage all of our local providers to enroll in COVID-19 Vaccination Program. <https://redcap.doh.wa.gov/surveys/?s=qlevATZ6qQ>

For more information visit [www.whitmancountypublichealth.org/covid-19](http://www.whitmancountypublichealth.org/covid-19) .

Future Whitman County press releases will be as needed.

###