



During our last round of staff testing, there was a positive COVID-19 result connected to a health services staff member. This case is not linked to the outbreak that shut down the Tribal Center offices in in early August. (An “outbreak” is defined as two or more cases stemming from the same source.)

This employee has had minimal contact with others, does not live on the reservation, and has been on “work from home” status since August 10. This result will not stall or delay reopening plans. All remaining staff will return to work on September 2.

This situation illustrates why we continue to test staff every two weeks and ask that they stay home as much as possible in their off time. The virus is still very active, and it can be contracted even with minimal contact with those outside your immediate household.

It is essential that EVERYONE continue to be diligent in the fight against COVID-19 by:

- Staying home as much as possible.
- When you must meet with those outside your household, keeping group sizes small. Five or less is ideal.
- Maintaining 6 feet of distance between yourself and others.
- Wearing a mask when out in public. This includes inside any Tribal offices.
- Restricting any and all travel. If at all possible, do not travel outside Kitsap County.
- Washing hands or using hand sanitizer frequently.

We know that these restrictions are hard, and we have had a number of travel requests and have heard numerous complaints about large gatherings. We urge everyone to exercise caution in and out of the workplace. These activities have impacts on your co-workers and the community.

We are heading into fall, which means COVID will be compounded by the arrival of cold and flu season. It is important for our collective health and safety that we all do our part. Please, do yours.