

**Benton-Franklin
Health District**
www.bfhd.wa.gov

Kennewick
7102 West Okanogan Place

Pasco
412 West Clark Street

Follow us on social
media:



A Media Only Briefing will be held:

March 17, 2020 at 11:00 am

Benton-Franklin Health District, 7102 W Okanogan
Place, Kennewick, WA

Spruce and Cedar Rooms (please allow extra time to
park due to construction; overflow parking is available at
the Toyota Center). **Social distancing restrictions will
be observed.**

The Briefing will also be streamed live on the Benton-
Franklin Health District's Facebook page.

BFHD ANNOUNCES FIRST LOCAL CASE OF COVID-19

March 17, 2020
For Immediate Release

Benton-Franklin Health District was notified today that a local resident has tested positive for COVID-19. The Franklin County woman in her 20s with underlying health conditions is being treated at a local hospital.

This case appears to be linked to foreign travel. The Health District is working to identify anyone who may have an increased exposure risk because of close contact with this person. It can take over a week to receive test results.

“As public health, we have expected this and we are prepared for this,” said Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer for Benton and Franklin Counties. “Regardless of where it was contracted, everyone can and should be taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

-More-

Benton-Franklin Health
District Website
www.bfhd.wa.gov

Washington Department
of Health
www.doh.wa.gov

Center for Disease
Control
www.cdc.gov

Rev 9/2019

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The public can help:

- **Do not go to the emergency room unless essential.** Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs.
- If you have symptoms like cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, call your regular doctor first.
- Stay home when sick.
- Even if you are not having symptoms, stay home as much as possible and practice social distancing by staying six feet away from other people.
- Practice excellent personal hygiene habits, including handwashing, coughing into tissue or elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay informed. Information is changing frequently. Check the Health District's website (www.bfhd.wa.gov) or follow on social media.

The health and safety of the people in Benton and Franklin Counties remains the Health District's top priority. The community is encouraged to help prevent the spread of illness and to support the response to this outbreak by staying informed and sharing reliable information. This is a very fluid situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

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