

Primary Contact
Contact: Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer
Phone: 509-460-4550
E-mail: drperson@bfhd.wa.gov
Date: March 30, 2020

Secondary Contact
Heather Hill, CD Supervisor
509-460-4232
heatherh@bfhd.wa.gov

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFO BULLETIN CONTAINS SEVERAL TOPICS. PLEASE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY.

A Conversation with your Health Officer

Fourth in a Series of COVID-19 Forums for Health Care Providers

Dr. Amy Person, Benton-Franklin Health District Health Officer, will present the latest update to COVID-19 in a webinar for local health care providers. Due to time constraints, please submit questions in advance to Covid-19@bfhd.wa.gov.

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2020
Time: 5:30 – 6:00pm

This week's topics will include:

- Testing, including access, timeliness of results, and accuracy of patient information on requisitions
- Current case counts
- Long Term Care outbreaks
- Addressing your needs – please submit questions to Covid-19@bfhd.wa.gov

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/601943342>

Meeting ID: 601 943 342

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,601943342# US (San Jose)

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Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 601 943 342

CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) Call *Clinical Management of Critically Ill Adults with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)*

During this COCA Call, clinicians will provide an overview of the clinical characteristics of COVID-19 patients, including case presentations of critically ill adults and clinical management challenges, and summarize recently published guidelines on clinical management of critically ill adults.

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2020

Time: 2:00pm–3:00pm (ET)

If joining through Zoom, please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613334029>

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +16692545252,,1613334029# or +16468287666,,1613334029#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666

Webinar ID: 161 333 4029

International numbers available: <https://www.zoomgov.com/u/acMT9czZKu>

Updated Guidance Allowing Patients to Self-Collect Nasal Specimens in a Health Care Setting

The FDA and CDC have updated guidance on allowing patients to self-collect nasal specimens when in a health care setting. More information can be found using the following links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-daily-roundup>

Reminder to Providers: Ensure Patients have Current or Updated POLST (Physicians Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment)

COVID-19 disproportionately affects the elderly and medically compromised, many of whom may have already made decisions about life sustaining treatment and end of life care. Advance directives and POLST (physician orders for life sustaining treatment) are tools to ensure that patients' wishes are followed and unwanted medical treatment is prevented. BFHD encourages providers to review their patients' advance directives and POLSTs and to help ensure all facilities involved in their care, including senior living facilities, are aware.

Guidance on Health Care Providers Using Homemade Masks

In response to questions about homemade masks, here is the guidance from CDC about health care providers using homemade masks when no face masks are available:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>

Additional recommendations for using alternative/homemade face masks include workers who do not have direct patient care responsibility, patients who do not have respiratory symptoms, and asymptomatic staff who have not had exposure to COVID-19. Facilities should also ensure they are maximizing other infection control measures to reduce risk of transmission.