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### **Chelan-Douglas Health District**

# **NEWS RELEASE**

#### \*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

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## Chelan-Douglas Counties and 2019 Novel Coronavirus

**East Wenatchee, WA** – As of Monday, March 2, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed five (5) deaths and 18 cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Washington State. This is an emerging outbreak with rapidly evolving information. Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD) is working closely with local agencies in response to the COVID-19 epidemic – though there are not yet any known cases in Chelan and Douglas Counties.

COVID-19 is a new disease that primarily attacks the respiratory system. It is usually spread person to person through close contact (within about 6 feet) and touching contaminated surfaces and then touching eyes, mouth or nose. Although masks may provide a sense of security, they are not recommended or effective for use by the general public. These are some steps people can take to reduce their risk of getting any viral respiratory infection:

- Washing your hands frequently or if unable to wash, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your mouth and eyes
- Cover your cough and sneezes
- Stay away from people who are sick
- Stay home if you are sick

Updates will be made as new information emerges. CDHD encourages the public to stay informed through professional and trustworthy resources such as the <u>DOH website</u> or <u>CDC website</u>. You can follow DOH & CDHD on social media (@WADeptHealth and @ChelanDouglasHD) for updates and additional healthcare tips.

#### Additional Resources:

<u>Chelan-Douglas Health District</u> <u>Washington State Department of Health</u> <u>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u>

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