County of Malheur

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Malheur County's First Positive Case of COVID-19

Ontario, OR. – The Malheur County Health Department today announced Malheur County's first laboratory-confirmed positive case of COVID-19. The person is a male Malheur County resident in his 20s and is not hospitalized. He is quarantined and recovering at home. Public health investigation is underway.

Malheur County is in close coordination with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Test results are now coming from multiple laboratories and are delivered electronically to providers, counties, and OHA throughout the day. As a result, some counties may release county data sooner than it is reported by the OHA.

"Our primary concern is the health and wellbeing of this person and the people close to him. Our thoughts are with them and we wish him a speedy recovery. We have excellent health care providers in Malheur County who are coordinating with our emergency preparedness team and doing all they can to care for their patients. I have confidence in the quality of care available, but it is important that all of us do our part to ensure that health care providers don't have to care for more people than the system can handle at one time," said Malheur County Health Department Director, Sarah Poe. "That means the goal is not to make sure that no one is infected with this virus, but that we prevent it from

spreading too quickly. Without a vaccine and without specific treatment, our best bet as a community is to slow the transmission so those who have a severe case can get the care they need from our health system. As the state's ability to test for COVID-19 increases, so will the number of positive cases. Testing has been limited and we can only test those who meet a high-criteria which is why we need everyone staying home to save lives."

For more information:

- For general information, call 211

- Malheur County Health Department: malheurhealth.org

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease: healthoregon.org/coronavirus

- CDC COVID-19: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

- WHO: who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus