



COVID-19 UPDATE

May 15, 2020

Okanogan County Public Health is reporting 2 new cases today. The new cases are from the South County area. Confirmed cases to date are from the following parts of Okanogan County:

11	Colville Indian Reservation
5	Methow Valley
10	South County – Pateros to Malott
10	Central Valley – Malott to Riverside
3	North County – Riverside to Oroville

The next COVID-19 Update will be Monday May 18, 2020.

Beware of Unemployment Fraud

A message from Sheriff Tony Hawley

We have had over 20 reports of fraudulent applications for unemployment benefits since May 7, 2020. The majority of those reports are coming from employees of school districts, Okanogan County, and Washington State employees. I am sure they are targeting employees of businesses who were deemed essential during the COVID-19 shut down in hopes of being able to file for unemployment benefits under their names. With the large amount of claims due to high unemployment; thieves are looking for one more way to get money they did not earn.

When people become aware of a fraudulent application for unemployment they should file a fraud report with the employment security.

<https://www.esd.wa.gov/unemployment/unemployment-benefits-fraud>

I contacted the Washington State Attorney General's office and was advised this is a statewide problem. The AG's office advised they are referring people to file online with the Washington State Employment Security Department. I was advised the phone lines are down due to large call volumes so filing online is the best approach and it provides the steps and information needed.

We have not had any reports of payments going out from Unemployment Security as they seek confirmation from the employer prior to activating those benefits. Employers should be vigilant in verifying any correspondence from Washington State Employment security so that any fraudulent applications can be addressed.

Individuals should also follow up with checking into their credit report to ensure no other fraudulent activity has occurred. And also asking for a fraud alert to be placed on your credit report which lasts 90 days initially.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdwa/victim-witness/victim-info/financial-fraud>

<https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/usao-wdwa/legacy/2012/08/18/Identity%20Theft%20Checklist.pdf>

Stay Home, Stay Healthy!

Confirmed Cases in Okanogan County (As of May 15 at 3 pm)

39

Deaths

2

Recovering

29

Samples Sent for Testing

1018

Negative Test Results

951

Test Results Pending

28

DOH Call Center

1-800-525-0127

Press # after the prompt

Okanogan County Alerts

Sign up for alerts like these from Emergency Management at:

<https://www.okanogandem.org>