



Frequently Asked Questions

Was this person an employee of West Side Yard?

- No

Is this person a local person or a tourist?

- Local

Did the person at the bar have symptoms?

- Yes
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

Fever or chills

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Muscle or body aches

New loss of taste or smell

Congestion or runny nose

Diarrhea

Cough

Fatigue

Headache

Sore throat

Nausea or vomiting

How can it be community transmission if there hasn't been a positive case in the last 6 weeks?

- Community transmission means the spread of illness for which the source of the infection is unknown and cannot be connect to a close contact of a positive case. Just because a case hasn't been reported in the last 6 weeks doesn't mean that the illness still isn't circulating in the community. It could mean that people are infected with it, but have not sought testing.

How do I know if I was in contact with the infected person?

- If you were at West Side Yard and did not come into close contact (within 6 feet) or interact with others outside of your own group for more than 10-15 minutes, you would not be considered at high risk for exposure. If you did come in contact with other patrons or if you feel that you may have been exposed, please call EIPH's COVID-19 Hotline at 208-522-0310 for next steps.

Why hasn't EIPH contacted me? I was in contact with the positive patient.

- EIPH relies on the information provided by an individual that tests positive to conduct contact tracing. If you feel you were a close contact (within 6 feet for 10-15 minutes) of a positive case, you may call EIPH's COVID-19 Hotline at 208-522-0310 to discuss your situation and be provided guidance.

How quickly does EIPH contact people who were in close contact? Will they contact you to get tested?

- EIPH contacts individuals as soon as possible after notification of a confirmed positive COVID-19 individual. Contact usually occur within hours.

What defines close contact?

- In general, close contact is defined as within 6 feet for a total of 10-15 minutes.

If I was in close contact what should I do?

- If you feel you were a close contact (within 6 feet for 10-15 minutes) of a positive case, you may call EIPH's COVID-19 Hotline at 208-522-0310 to discuss your situation and get guidance. ALL CLOSE CONTACTS, whether symptomatic or not, should immediately self-isolate.
- Close contacts with symptoms should call your healthcare provider for further instruction.
- Close contacts with no symptoms should continue to isolate for 14 days from their last potential exposure and until released by EIPH.

If I went to the bathroom and the patient had been in the bathroom, is that close contact?

- No



Frequently Asked Questions

I heard they are tracking 5 other people but I do not know what that means. Why they don't test those 5 people instead of tracking them?

o Contact tracing, or “tracking” in this example, means that an individual has been identified as a close contact of the confirmed case. EIPH reaches out to these individuals to provide instructions for self-isolating and also monitors their health during the isolation period.

o COVID-19 has an incubation period of up to 14 days. Testing does not change the need for isolating of an exposed individual during that incubation period. An example would be if you tested on day 5 after exposure and even if it was negative, you would still need to be isolating for the next 9 days as you could still develop the disease.

If I was wearing a mask when I was in contact with the patient, am I at risk?

o Yes, masks help to protect others from what you have, they do not protect you from what others have. This is the reason that we recommend everyone to wear masks to help protect each other.

Why do healthy people need to wear a mask? If you are wearing your mask, why does it matter if others are not?

o Some people infected with COVID-19 can spread it to others before they themselves start exhibiting symptoms. Masks help to protect others from what you have, they do not protect you from what others have. This is the reason that we recommend everyone to wear masks to help protect each other.

Will Victor change any of its rules because of this case?

o Victor is closely monitoring the situation and will remain in close communication with EIPH and TVH. At this time, we will continue to align with the state guidelines, and will reassess as needed.

If I don't have symptoms, should I get tested?

o Not at this time. Testing when you do not have symptoms (asymptomatic) only gives a result for that exact point in time. This does not mean that you remain negative. You could test positive the next day.

Will TVH test me if I have no symptoms?

o Yes, TVH will test asymptomatic individuals. You must meet with a provider and the provider can then issue an order for you to be tested. Your test will be sent out to a commercial lab and we will provide the results, usually within 1 – 3 days. We know that tests are required prior to entry in certain states and by certain employers. Patient's need to be aware that insurance may not cover the patient portion of the visit or testing cost. Please call the COVID Nurse line (208-354-2383) for more information.

Can my employer require I get tested even if I have no symptoms?

o Employers can request that you be tested; however, EIPH does not recommend testing of asymptomatic individuals at this time.

Are there sufficient testing capacities at the hospital?

o TVH can currently perform both COVID PCR and antibody tests in house and has several hundred of each test available. We also utilize commercial and state labs for testing to augment our capacity. However, there that is not enough capability to test everyone who should or wants to be tested. There is still an inadequate supply of tests and testing materials, with orders and delivery of additional supplies often being unfilled.

They tested 1,300 people in on day in Jackson, surely we can test a handful here. Isn't there a stockpile of unused tests?

o While Idaho's testing capacity has improved some over time, it is still not at a level where there are adequate testing supplies to test everyone who wants to be tested, including asymptomatic individuals. While EIPH does not conduct testing, we have received a minimal supply of testing supplies (swabs and viral transport media) that we are saving to be able to assist in responding to outbreaks involving vulnerable populations, healthcare providers, first responders, congregate living facilities, etc. within our eight-county region. TVH, as noted above, has several hundred of each type of test, but continues to experience the same issues relating to adequacy of supply.

What are the hours and phone number for the COVID nurse?

o We answer the COVID Nurse line 7x24 (208-354-2383) and provide a dedicated person answering the COVID line from 9-5 Monday to Friday.

What about informing us about the total number of tests available and the number of positives?

o EIPH does not have data related to number of tests available. EIPH does report on all positives on a daily basis.