



Press Release

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
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Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center Reopens

MISSION, OR - Yellowhawk Tribal Health Center reopened its services to patients on Monday, October 19 after robust employee testing through the weekend. No new cases of COVID-19 resulted from the employee testing.

Yellowhawk closed its doors at noon on Thursday, October 15 through Friday, October 16 after two employees tested positive for COVID-19. The cases are linked to each other. Yellowhawk facility's staff deep cleaned the building during this time and extensive contact tracing investigations were completed by Friday. All employees that were identified as "contacts" are now quarantining for the recommended timeframe. A "contact" is defined as an individual who has been within 6 feet or less of a person known to have tested positive for at least 15 minutes.

"During our efforts to quickly have the facility deep cleaned, our first priority was to get the clinic reopened for patients to continue to meet their healthcare needs. We understand the importance of keeping the pharmacy open and continuing to provide medical support and behavioral health advocacy during these unexpected closures" said Lisa Guzman, Yellowhawk Chief Executive Officer. "In an effort to provide continued support to the community, we immediately partnered with Oregon Health Authority to provide an open COVID-19 testing event for the community. This will occur on Wednesday, October 21 from 9-5pm at the Mission Community Gym."

Cases in the surrounding area and across the nation are beginning to rise. Let this serve as a reminder that as the weather gets cooler and holidays are approaching, more people will be spending time indoors. Please continue to follow social distancing guidelines, wear a face covering, and wash your hands frequently. These measures are the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is made up of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes, formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley, 12 statute 945. In 1949, the Tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve and enhance the treaty rights guaranteed under federal statute.

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