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## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION*

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### **INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES IN BEAR RIVER HEALTH DISTRICT**

Bear River Health Department has seen an increase in positive cases of COVID-19 in Cache County over the last few days. We reported 10 new cases on Wednesday May 27; 22 on Thursday May 28; and 31 on Friday May 29. As our community has transitioned from moderate to low risk we anticipated a rise in COVID-19 cases.

Bear River Health Department continues to aggressively monitor individuals who test positive for COVID-19 and ensure they are isolated to protect the community. As part of our investigation we work with the patient to help them recall everyone with whom they have had close contact during the timeframe while they may have been infectious. We also try to determine where they may have been infected. Our staff then reaches out to their contacts to make them aware of their possible exposure to COVID-19. Contacts often include family members, roommates, friends, and places of employment. Contacts are provided with education and support to understand their risk and the next steps they should take.

Across the state, public health is working diligently to protect critical infrastructure and essential employees. As we quickly identify sick individuals and temporarily remove them from the workplace, we can help keep these critical industries operating. This identification occurs as we increase our testing capabilities. Over the next few days there will be targeted COVID-19 testing clinics at some of these critical industries. As large numbers of individuals are tested, we anticipate an increase in positive cases.

According to Dr. Angela Dunn, Epidemiologist for the Utah Department of Health, "It is important for members of the public to remember that low and moderate risk does not mean "no risk". We all have a responsibility to be proactive and to do the things we know will help limit the spread of this virus: stay home if you're sick, practice good hand hygiene, maintain social distancing, and when that's not possible, wear a mask."

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*Mission: Prevent disease, promote healthy lifestyles, and protect the community & environment.*