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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ADDITIONAL SAMARITAN HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEE TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Moses Lake – A Samaritan Healthcare employee has tested positive for COVID-19. The employee is asymptomatic (showing no symptoms) and remains home in isolation.

Upon review, it appears that the Samaritan Healthcare employee contracted COVID-19 through community exposure. The employee has not worked since they were initially contacted by the Grant County Health District for having been exposed to another positive patient within our community. At this time, Samaritan officials believe there is no identifiable patient risk.

“Our continued thoughts and prayers for strength and healing are with our employee and their family at this time,” stated Samaritan CEO, Theresa Sullivan. “While we know this war against COVID-19 is far from over, we are seeing encouraging news in the recovery of our employees who have been infected.”

Previously, Samaritan officials announced that two employees had tested positive for COVID-19. As of this week, both of the previously diagnosed employees have been cleared by the Grant County Health District, and have returned to work. It’s important to note, that the two previously diagnosed employees work on a separate campus than the newest employee.

In early March, Samaritan Healthcare implemented a comprehensive screening strategy on all campus locations. The screening process involves a COVID-19 symptom questionnaire and temperature check, upon entrance and exit to any Samaritan facility. Additionally, all staff, patients, and visitors are asked to wear masks during the duration of their activities on campus.

“All of us, together, have the ability to win this war against COVID-19, but we need everyone’s help. Stay home. Stop the spread. Save lives. This is something we all must do,” stated Chief Medical Officer Dr. Andrea Carter.

Grant County Health District Administrator Theresa Adkinson, shares, “We want to continue to reinforce that the local data being shared is a reflection of our community several days ago. Please stay home and help us to slow the spread of this virus in our community.”

For more information on Samaritan’s response to COVID-19 as well as resources related to symptoms, treatment, and communication please visit www.samaritanhealthcare.com/HealthAlert.

**To slow the spread of COVID-19 in Grant County
Samaritan Healthcare recommends:**

DO:

1. Stay home as much as possible—children, too.
2. Only have one person go out (if possible) and only for essential groceries and medical care.
3. When going out, stay at least six feet away from others.
4. When exercising outside, stay six feet apart.
5. Have video and phone chats to communicate.
6. Drop off groceries on the doorstep for neighbors who can't go out.

DON'T DO:

1. Don't gather in groups with friends or family.
2. Don't get together in homes with friends or family members who don't live with you
3. Don't have play dates for kids.
4. Don't make unnecessary trips.

(These are in alignment with the CDC and Washington State Department of Health recommendations.)