



County of Malheur

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Warning Week: Malheur County case rate solidly in Moderate Risk range

Malheur County's case rate over the two-week period from Feb. 28 through March 13 gives the county solid footing in the Moderate Risk level of the state's four-tier system, [explained here](#), that is designed to help communities reduce the spread of COVID-19. This week is a Warning Week during which no Risk Level assignments are scheduled to occur.

Based on population, Malheur County's risk level is determined by two indicators: case rate (number of cases per 100,000 people) and test positivity rate. This week's [Risk Level Metrics report](#) shows that there were 22 cases of COVID-19 reported, equal to a case rate of 68.7. Moderate Risk range is a case rate of 50 to <100. The county's test positivity rate was 1.5%, well within the Lower Risk range.

"We believe the reduction in cases is largely due to the increasing number of people who are vaccinated. We are heartened that we have not lost another life to COVID-19 in more than a month and hope that with more and more people protected by vaccination, we will be able to save more lives and move our county to the Low Risk level soon," Malheur County Health Department Director Sarah Poe said.

County Risk Levels are updated every two weeks. During a Movement Week next Tuesday, March 23, updated data will be published and county risk levels will be assigned. Any resulting changes to risk levels will take effect on Friday, March 26, and remain in effect for the next two weeks.

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