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NEWS RELEASE

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LOCALIZED OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 IN CACHE COUNTY

Logan, UT – Bear River Health District confirms 198 new cases of COVID-19 today. Many of these are tied to an ongoing outbreak that is being investigated at a local meat processing industry. The spike in the numbers comes after mass testing events held over the past week where 1,300 tests were completed.

The first results of these tests came in late Thursday evening, due to a delay from state and private labs in their ability to run the tests. The delay in testing may result in an increase in positive cases in the coming week. While Bear River Health Department does not have the ability to run tests, they do have multiple disease investigation teams locally and from around the state working tirelessly to investigate and communicate with each positive case and conduct contact tracing.

The health department staff is making every effort to get ahead of this outbreak and reduce the spread of COVID-19, but resources are strained. Additional investigators have been recruited through the Utah National Guard, local health departments throughout the state, and a team from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC team will be located at Bear River Health Department to provide technical assistance, industry assistance, and investigation support.

"As the health department continues to investigate this outbreak, we ask the residents of our community to remain diligent. We plead with you to maintain physical distancing when possible, wear a face covering when physical distancing is difficult, stay home when you are sick, and wash your hands often," said Lloyd Berentzen, Health Director, Bear River Health Department. "We appreciate all our communities have done and the sacrifices they have made."

Please visit our webpage, brhd.org, for daily case updates.

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