



PRESS RELEASE

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Blanchet House Statement on Shelter Resident Testing Positive for COVID-19

Portland (Sept. 24, 2020)—Blanchet House confirms that a resident in their shelter, not associated with their meal program, has tested positive for COVID-19 and is now receiving medical attention. As a precautionary measure, meal services to the homeless and food insecure have been temporarily suspended until at least Oct. 5.

No volunteers or meal guests have been in contact with the exposed resident. The county is completing contact tracing to determine who has been in contact with the infected resident and will notify them.

COVID-19 safety protocols including social distancing, hand washing, and the required use of face coverings have been in place since March 2020. Due to these measures, the likelihood of exposure to anyone in the Blanchet House community is very low.

“We feel terrible that we cannot provide meals to our guests who are suffering right now but this is a necessary action for the safety of our volunteers, staff, residents, and meal guests. We will continue to provide life-saving housing to the men staying with us at Blanchet House and Blanchet Farm. It's critical that we safeguard their health during this time,” said Scott Kerman, Executive Director.

People in need of food, clothing, or shelter will be directed to partner social service organizations like the Portland Rescue Mission and Union Gospel Mission. Sack lunches will be provided to individuals who are unable to walk to services.

Blanchet House is following all CDC protocols and has implemented staff guidelines in relation to social interactions, hygiene, travel, and visits to Blanchet House.

ABOUT BLANCHET HOUSE: Blanchet House is a nonprofit organization serving the communities of Multnomah and Yamhill counties since 1952. They offer meals to people experiencing homelessness and food insecurity along with life-saving housing programs.

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