

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Columbia Valley Community Health

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## **Special Health Care Enrollment Extension**

*Columbia Valley Community Health will continue to provide enrollment assistance into the State Benefit Exchange*

**Tuesday, March 3, 2015: Wenatchee, WA:** The [Washington Health Benefit Exchange](#) is offering a special enrollment extension for those who need to enroll into a Qualified Health Plan to avoid a tax penalty.

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) (CVCH) will continue to offer free in-person assistance to residents who were unable to complete their applications by the February 15 deadline. This assistance is open to anyone in the community, not just clinic patients, who may have to pay a tax penalty for not having health insurance under the Affordable Care Act when they file their annual tax return this year.

The special enrollment period runs through **April 17, 2015**. In order to qualify for this extension, applicants must have experienced one of the following:

- System Delays
- Technical Defects in [WashingtonHealthPlanFinder](#)
- Misunderstandings regarding penalties for not having insurance
- Unclear instructions regarding the necessary steps for 2015 Enrollment

CVCH In-Person assisters will be available on walk-in basis to help community residents navigate this process. Anyone interested can call 509-662-6000, or visit the Wenatchee clinic at 600 Orondo Avenue. Assistance will also be available on a limited basis at the CVCH Chelan clinic, located at 317 E Johnson. Anyone who is not covered in 2015 will face a 2016 tax penalty through the Internal Revenue Service of \$325 per individual or up to 2 percent of their income, whichever is greater. Washingtonians who would like to enroll in 2015 coverage have until the April 17 deadline.

For more information about the health benefit exchange extension or receiving in-person assistance at Columbia Valley Community Health, contact [Dulce Negrete](#), Member Services Manager, at 509.661.3627.

### **About Columbia Valley Community Health**

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all.

Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves over 24,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.