



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 9, 2020**

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) The biggest news in the last 24 hours is the State's announcement that all schools in Oregon will now be closed for in-person learning for the remainder of the 2019/2020 academic school year. We know this announcement brings added stress and uncertainty to families, students, and educators alike. The [Oregon Department of Education](#), along with your local school districts have implemented programs to help make sure our students have the resources they need to continue learning and creating, while maintaining their physical health and mental wellbeing. As COVID-19 continues to impact our daily lives, we hope you find our daily updates a resource for information that will help everyone through these unprecedented times.

Local COVID-19 Test Results

As of 12:00 p.m., April 9, 2020, there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The number of positive cases stands at twelve total in the county. Of the twelve positives, four have recovered, and there have been zero deaths and 470 negative tests for COVID-19 locally. Douglas Public Health Network continues their epidemiologic investigations, identifying individuals who may have had close contact with individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 and advising quarantine. Four of the individuals who tested positive earlier have now recovered. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-9.

The next drive-through COVID-19 clinic led by DPHN is scheduled for Friday, April 10. There will be another drive-through clinic in Reedsport on Saturday, April 11. At this time, you can only get a COVID-19 test through your healthcare provider. Residents must be identified by their health care provider, as a patient that is symptomatic, and needs to be tested. Information has been given to providers and clinics about how to get their patients signed up for the drive-through testing clinics. If you want to be tested, you must talk to your health care provider. Tests are currently being processed at the Oregon State Public Health Lab and a growing number of commercial labs, like Quest and LabCorp. There are a few outpatient clinics in Douglas County offering testing at this time. Community health partners are working very hard to make testing available to a wider number of people. The first drive thru testing site was piloted in the county on March 17, 2020, there have been 238 people tested so far in the drive through clinics. The drive through clinics are led by DPHN, in conjunction with partner agencies including; Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Douglas County Public Works, local volunteers and local health professionals.

Oregon COVID-19 Case Update

Oregon Health Authority reports new cases once a day on its website at www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus. The Oregon Health Authority is also releasing the daily situation status report, which is produced jointly with Oregon Office of Emergency Management. It details the overall picture of the COVID-19 outbreak within the state and the response across government agencies. [Read more here about the daily situation status report](#).

Myth Busters Type Video on Masks

We want to make sure that our residents are informed, safe and healthy. Now that a lot of people are wearing masks when in public, our Public Health Official, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer put together a fun and informational video about how masks work with COVID-19. Please see all our COVID-19 informational videos on the [DPHN YouTube channel](#).

Local Mask Efforts

If you would like a homemade mask please contact Douglas County Helpers via their Facebook page or email at douglascountyhelpers@gmail.com. The Umpqua Sewing Warriors is also making homemade masks and may be reached on their Facebook page. The group [The Timber Faller's Daughter](#) is working in Reedsport on this effort. You can also find them on Facebook. If you would like to make your own mask, the pattern that many organizations locally have been using can be found [here](#).



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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Roseburg VA Health Care System



American Red Cross
Southwest Oregon Chapter

Schools Won't Reopen to Classroom Learning This Academic Year

The announcement that Oregon schools will remain closed to in-person learning through the end of the academic year, is the latest in the orders from the State for closures. K-12 school districts, community colleges and public universities are being directed to complete the final weeks of the regular school year through distance learning.

Roseburg Public Schools responded to the announcement with a message posted on its website: "While we are saddened by this news, our district has been preparing for this possibility and believes that this decision is in the best interest of our students, families, staff and community as a whole. We understand that this development will add anxiety to an already stressful situation, but we want to assure you that we are here to support our students and families in every way possible. District staff have been working to put together resources to implement the statewide "Distance Learning for All" plan." Please contact your local school for information on what programs they are offering.

Also Wednesday, the Oregon Department of Education released "[Graduation Pathways 2020](#)," a guide for how high school seniors can earn their final set of credits and graduate on time. All seniors who were on track to graduate prior to the statewide school closures will receive passing grades for their courses. For students who were not on track to graduate, the state encouraged districts to find "creative ways to get these seniors the extra attention they need to get across the finish line." No student admitted to a public university this fall will have their admission status taken away due to changes in grading policy or an inability to complete their high school coursework, as long as they still graduate.

Gardening brings stress relief, relaxation

The sun is shining, and some Douglas County residents who have been hunkering down at home during the COVID-19 pandemic are finding comfort and cheer in their gardens. Whether you're growing cherry tomatoes to put in your salad or tulips to brighten up your landscape, getting some dirt on your hands and getting outdoors on a sunny day can be cathartic.

If you're a new gardener wondering where to begin, Joanna Gaines of HGTV's "Fixer Upper" show has a [blog entry](#) about starting a garden. Her advice? "Start small." Better Homes and Gardens magazine offers a "[gardening by region](#)" page that includes tips for gardening in the Pacific Northwest. Douglas County Master Gardeners posts helpful articles and tips on its [Facebook page](#), and recently shared this local [article](#) with helpful info on how to grow "big, beautiful tomatoes." Gardening is also a fun activity to do with your kids! And it's satisfying to sit down and enjoy a healthy meal featuring veggies from your very own backyard. If you don't have a yard, here are some tips for how to start a [container garden](#). Oh, and National Gardening Day is April 14.

Help Keep the Blood Donations Going – Circulate the Love

Yes, these are uncertain times, but leaving home to donate blood is considered a lifesaving and essential need. Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [www.RedCrossBlood.org](#) or calling (800) 733-2767. Donate your blood and save a life.

The YMCA and the American Red Cross are teaming up for two blood drives later this month. Both drives will be held at the **YMCA of Douglas County, 1151 NW Stewart Parkway, in Roseburg:**

- **Tuesday, April 21** – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- **Tuesday, April 28** – 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Appointments are now required, in light of social-distancing guidelines. To make an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](#) and enter sponsor code: YMCA Roseburg. To save time during your donation, please complete your health history questions prior to the drive by visiting [www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](#)

Greater Douglas United Way – Local COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

The Greater Douglas United Way (GDUW) has a local COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. 100% of your donation will go to help local people in need as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. GDUW has also pledged that they will not be charging any administrative fees on the fund. GDUW will focus the funding on basic needs through local nonprofits, childcare needs, and other basic needs for people affected by the pandemic. Deposits can be made at any Banner Bank location using the GDUW COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. More information available at: [GDUW website](#).

Stay Informed with the Accurate Information

Your Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Douglas County Public Health Officer, Dr. Robert Dannenhoffer and the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team have been working hard to cooperatively provide accurate and timely information and a response to Douglas County residents. **If you have questions about resources available, call the COVID-19 hotline, staffed by local volunteers at (541) 464-6550.** Stay up to date on COVID-19 in Douglas County on the DPHN website at [www.douglaspublichealthnetwork.org](#). Find additional information on state, federal and international COVID-19 response from the following websites: [Oregon Health Authority](#), [Centers for Disease Control](#), [World Health Organization](#) and by calling or logging onto [211Info](#).

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