



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 26, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) Health officials at Douglas County’s two hospitals – Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg and Lower Umpqua Hospital in Reedsport – are reminding residents that they are open, safe and ready to provide care. *“We are screening everyone, including employees, who come into the hospital,”* said Jason Gray, MD, Mercy’s Chief Medical Officer. *“Patient care staff are wearing masks, and patient safety, as always, is paramount.”*

“Lower Umpqua Hospital is following the same precautions to ensure our community’s safety,” said Ryan Fowler, LUH’s Chief Administrative Officer.

Elective procedures have resumed at Mercy and LUH, along with preventative screenings, imaging tests and other services. Both hospitals urge patients who need procedures like these to get them scheduled. *“Screenings like mammograms and colonoscopies are key in the early detection of cancer,”* Gray commented. *“Across Oregon, people have stayed home and, unfortunately for some, their health has declined as a result. The word ‘elective’ doesn’t mean it’s not needed; it really means it was just scheduled rather than an emergency. We don’t want people to stay away from care any longer.”*

Routine doctor’s visits are also safe, and are encouraged. Mercy’s local physician practices have implemented many new safety measures as well, including phone screening prior to visit when possible; changes to waiting rooms to allow for social distancing; new cleaning protocols; and masks for patients who may not have one. Staff are screening patients wearing gloves, mask, and goggles, and staff members providing direct clinical care will be wearing surgical masks, so that patients can rest easier when they go to their visits. People who need emergency care should go to the emergency room, and anyone experiencing cardiac symptoms should call 911. Fowler, of LUH, said, *“In addition to in-person appointments with your primary care provider, you can also utilize the telehealth option. Your PCP can order labs, X-rays and other diagnostic tests if needed during your telehealth appointment.”*

Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results

It is Tuesday, May 26, 2020, and as of 12:00 pm today, there are NO new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The total number of positive cases in Douglas County remains at 25. Testing continues, as DPHN has been holding 2-3 clinics a week and hospitals, urgent cares and clinics continue to test. Twenty-five people have tested positive in the county and twenty-three of those twenty-five have recovered. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-19. DPHN continues their epidemiologic investigations, identifying individuals who may have had close contact with individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19, advising and supporting quarantine. The majority of the individuals who have tested positive earlier have now recovered. The first positive COVID-19 case in Douglas County was announced on March 8, 2020. Thanks to the great work that Douglas County has done social distancing and staying home, we’ve had 25 cases in 79 days.

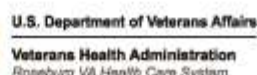
Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:

New Cases as of 12:00 pm May 26, 2020	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Recovered Cases (of those that tested positive)	Total COVID-19 deaths	Total Currently Hospitalized (of those that tested positive)	Total Negative Test Result	Total Presumptive Cases
0	25	23	0	1	2229	0

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has expanded their reporting for COVID-19 case management and will now include presumptive COVID-19 cases. DPHN will also be reporting presumptive cases and will use the OHA’s definition of presumptive as having had close contact with a known, confirmed COVID-19 case, showing symptoms and not yet having a positive nasal swab/PCR test for COVID-19.

Getting Tested & Testing Clinics

The next DPHN drive-through COVID-19 test is today, May 26th. As a reminder, if you are having symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches and pains, diarrhea, sore throat or decreased sense of smell and taste, talk to your health care provider about being tested for COVID-19. Patients without a Primary Care Provider that are looking for a COVID-19 test should contact the Sutherlin Aviva Health clinic at (541) 459-3788. The first drive thru testing site was piloted in the county on March 17, 2020, there have been 534 people tested in the drive through clinics alone, additional testing continues in hospitals, urgent cares and clinics simultaneously. The drive through clinics are led by DPHN, in conjunction with partner agencies including; Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, 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.](#)

Facebook Live with Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer

Join us Friday, May 29, 2020 for the next virtual town hall Q&A with Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, your Douglas County Public Health Officer at 6:00 pm, hosted by DPHN and found on the [DPHN Facebook page](#).

DCCRT Partner Spotlight: Red Cross

The American Red Cross is one of 14 member agencies that participated in the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team (DCCRT), helping to ensure the community’s safety through blood drives and other efforts. The Red Cross collects 40 percent of the nation’s blood supply, and holds regular drives in communities all over. COVID-19 was a curve ball.

“When COVID first happened, we had these pre-scheduled blood drives at businesses and schools that had to be cancelled,” said Carisa Hettich, Executive Director of the Red Cross’ Southwest Oregon Chapter. As schools and businesses shut down, Red Cross organizers had to cancel the first weeks’ worth of drives. They worked with the DCCRT to find alternative sites that were big enough to host a blood drive, and were able to continue with most of the scheduled drives after that first week. *“We did remarkably well,”* she said. *“By the end of March, we were still able to collect the overall goal.”*

Community members stepped up too, and continued coming out to donate. Donating blood is considered an essential activity; even during a pandemic, there are still births, accidents and other events that require an adequate blood supply, Hettich pointed out. There is now an effort underway to collect convalescent plasma, or plasma from people who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and have recovered. Those who are eligible and interested in donating convalescent plasma can get started by visiting the Red Cross’ [website](#) and filling out a form. In addition to altering its blood drives, the Red Cross had to change the way it responds to fires. Under normal circumstances, when there is a home fire, Red Cross volunteers are dispatched to the scene to provide comfort, food and other assistance to fire victims. In the age of COVID-19, volunteers still respond to the scene but mostly to drop off supplies.

“Before COVID, we’d give them a hug, give them blankets,” Hettich said. *“It’s the compassion and the hug that people need.”* Now, the comfort is still there, but it’s given out from a distance for both victims’ and volunteers’ safety. Much of the follow-up casework is done over the phone. Victims are still provided with resources to pay for hotel rooms and food. In one of its lesser-known roles, the Red Cross also assists with emergency communication for the military. If a service member is requesting a leave due to a birth, death, illness of a loved one or other hardship at home, the Red Cross verifies the event for the military, which then grants the leave for legitimate hardships. The Red Cross even has staff on military bases overseas to help facilitate those messages. *“It’s one of our longest programs,”* she said. As Oregon slowly reopens, Hettich encourages anyone looking for ways to help their community to consider volunteering. *“We still have home fires, we’ll still have wildfires, we’ll still need blood,”* she said. *“If they have time, or really want to do something positive, this is a way they can do that, by volunteering for the Red Cross.”* Information on volunteer opportunities with the American Red Cross and the Southwest Oregon Chapter can be found on their [website](#).

Local Blood Drives: Appointments are required, visit www.redcrossblood.org or call (800) 733-2767 to schedule today.

Tuesday, May 26	9:00 am - 2:30 pm	Pine Grove Community Church, 1729 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg
Tuesday, May 26	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Family Church, 4384 Carnes Road, Roseburg
Wednesday, May 27	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Winston Community Center, 440 SE Grape Ave, Winston

Insurance Emergency Orders Released

On May 23, 2020, the Department of Consumer and Business Services issued emergency orders for insurance companies providing property and casualty, long-term care, and life and disability insurance. The orders require insurance companies providing these policies to do the following:

- Provide at least a 60-day grace period to pay any past-due premiums
- Pay claims for any covered losses during the first 30 days of the grace period
- Extend all deadlines for reporting claims and other communications, and provide members with communication options that meet physical distancing standards

The orders are effective through June 23, but can be extended in 30-day increments as needed to address the COVID-19 outbreak. Also, the original emergency order that was issued on March 25 has been extended to June 23. That order applies to all lines of insurance other than health, property and casualty, long-term care, and life and disability insurance. This emergency order requires all other lines of insurance companies to postpone policy cancellations, extend grace periods for premium payments, and extend deadlines for reporting claims. [Read the insurance emergency orders here.](#)

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 to Douglas County residents since March 8, 2020. **If you have questions about COVID-19 or resources available, call our local COVID-19 hotline, staffed by local volunteers at (541) 464-6550 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, 7 days a week.** Stay up to date on COVID-19 in Douglas County on the [DPHN website](#). Find additional information on state or federal COVID-19 response from the following websites: [Douglas County Government](#), [Oregon Health Authority](#), [Centers for Disease Control](#), and by calling or logging onto [211Info](#).

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