



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE
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DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) This week, May 10-16, 2020, we celebrate National Hospitals Week! Every year on the second week of May, the American Hospital Association recognizes the great work that hospitals, health systems and health care workers do to provide healthcare resources to keep our communities healthy. This Hospital Week, we are especially thankful for all frontline workers keeping us safe and healthy in the face of a global pandemic. Oregon hospitals and their staff have been making sacrifices to care for patients in order to keep us all safe.

This Hospital Week, join us in saying #ThankYouOregonHospitals for their hard work to keep us healthy – not only during COVID-19, but year round! Oregon has 62 community hospitals located across 36 counties, according to the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHS). It includes public and private hospitals, multi-hospital systems and stand-alone specialty hospitals and affiliated health service providers. The majority of hospitals across Oregon are located in rural areas.

In Douglas County, there are two hospitals ~ Mercy Medical Center in Roseburg and the Lower Umpqua Hospital District in Reedsport. We are thankful for all of our dedicated local medical professionals and support staff that keep Mercy Medical Center and Lower Umpqua Hospital operating. A second shout out to all that these two organizations and employees do for our communities. Show your support, make a post a sign in your yard or your window, or post a note of appreciation on Facebook, make sure you use the following hashtags to thank our hospitals and their staff: #HospitalWeek and #ThankYouOregonHospitals.

Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results

It is Tuesday, May 12, 2020 and as of 12:00 pm today, there **NO** new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. There has only been one positive case reported in the last 22 days, and that case was reported as recovered before their test results were returned. Testing continues, as DPHN has been holding 2-3 clinics a week and hospitals, urgent cares and clinics continue to test. Twenty-four people have tested positive in the county and twenty-two of those twenty-four have recovered. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-19.

Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:

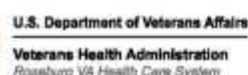
New Cases as of 12:00 pm May 12, 2020	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Recovered Cases (of those that tested positive)	Total COVID-19 deaths	Total Currently Hospitalized (of those that tested positive)	Total Negative Test Result	Total Presumptive Cases
0	24*	22	0	1	1473	0

*confirmed cases are people who have tested positive with a PCR/nasal swab test

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. 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.

Get Tested & Testing Clinics

The next drive through clinic led by DPHN is scheduled for today, Tuesday, May 12, 2020. 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. The first drive thru testing site was piloted in the county on March 17, 2020, there have been 466 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.](#)

DCCRT Partner Spotlight: Douglas County Board of Commissioners

Douglas County’s countywide COVID-19 response is being led by a mighty team! Our Douglas County Board of Commissioners were an integral part of the County’s COVID-19 response. Commissioner Tim Freeman was chosen by his fellow Commissioners to have delegated authority for the COVID-19 health response in early March. As the Board of Commissioners’ public health liaison, Freeman also worked on health care policy issues during his time in the state Legislature, he was a natural choice. Back in February, he’d already connected with HR Director Michael Kurtz to look at how the County could alter its operations to allow some employees to work remotely. When Freeman chose to organize and head up the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team (DCCRT) as the Agency Administrator, Kurtz, a former deputy county health administrator, acted as his backup.

The County stood up an Emergency Operations Center and convened a team of local experts to serve on the DCCRT. KC Bolton, CEO of Aviva Health, was asked to take on the role of co-incident commander along with Teresa Mutschler, Executive Director of Douglas Public Health Network (DPHN). Bolton’s dual background in health care and military hospital planning made him the “perfect fit,” for that role, combined with Mutschler, whose background at the local public health office in emergency planning and administration at DPHN made the perfect team, Freeman said. Additional partners were brought in, including Mercy Medical Center, Lower Umpqua Hospital, Umpqua Health, Evergreen Family Medicine, Roseburg Veterans Affairs, Adapt, the Sheriff’s Office, Search and Rescue, the Red Cross, Roseburg VA and Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA).

“We had all these experts who had their life’s work available for us to use as a team to react and respond, and to do this incredibly difficult, once-in-a-lifetime pandemic response,” Freeman said. *“It really reminds us of what great talent we have in our County.”*

As the response team grew, the existing EOC room was too small to allow for physical distancing, so the operations center moved to a larger room in the Douglas County Courthouse, that had ample space. The team got to work, tackling projects including planning for hospital surge capacity, setting up alternative-care sites, monitoring and managing personal protective equipment (PPE), and supporting DPHN in all their endeavors, including drive-through clinics, the volunteer hotline and precautionary messaging.

The DCCRT established five objectives outlined by county leadership:

- 1. Minimize loss of life in Douglas County
- 2. Protect surge capacity at hospitals
- 3. Ensure adequate availability of PPE
- 4. Leverage county resource to support operational needs
- 5. Communicate effectively with partners and the public

Bolton said the guiding principle of *“save as many Douglas County lives as possible”* has been his *“North Star,”* in keeping the DCCRT on track. Public communication was a top priority. The County had learned from recent county emergencies that it needed a channel for letting residents know what was going on behind the scenes in times of crisis. A public information officer position was created in 2018, and Tamara Howell was hired to fill that role. She has managed the public information side of the DCCRT, including the County’s daily COVID-19 newsletter and the joint information center. *“That continues, to this day, to be an important part of this response,”* Freeman said.

All three of our County Commissioners have been in regular contact with State and Federal Officials, as well as City Administrators throughout Douglas County during the crisis. Our Commissioners have been making trips to all parts of the county including the outer lying areas like Reedsport, to make sure that they have what they need to assist citizens. While Freeman headed up the DCCRT as the Agency Administrator, his fellow Commissioners focused on other fronts in the battle against COVID-19 and its impacts.

Board Chair Chris Boice worked on economic issues and efforts to protect local businesses. *“My role really has been to stay on top of and understand what’s been available for financial help for businesses, both on the state and federal levels, and to get that information out to businesses as soon as possible, so they can take advantage of those programs,”* Boice said.

Boice also drafted one of the first letters in the State to the Governor proposing a regional Phase One reopening for southern Oregon. He garnered the support of five SW Oregon County Commissioners, who joined us in unanimously approving and signing the letter before it was sent to the Governor’s Office on April 24. When the state announced last week that it would start to accept applications for counties to begin Phase One reopening, Boice worked directly with our Douglas County Public Health Officer, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, to fill out Douglas County’s application in order to submit it last Friday - the first day the state was accepting them.

Last, but not least, Commissioner Tom Kress who is the liaison to many County Departments worked to make sure our county departments and employees were still active and assisting our citizens through the crisis. Kress, who is the liaison to the Public Works Department, helped to orchestrate additional operations during the crisis by working with public works crews to provide logistical support to DPHN for the drive-through testing clinics, as well as management of the local PPE supply. As liaison to our Senior Services Department he also helped in the reassignment of Public Works, Assessor’s Office and Fairgrounds employees, who delivered meals to seniors through our Meals on Wheels and senior

dining site programs, when volunteers who were in the high risk category were asked to stay home and stay safe. Kress, is also the liaison to the Fairgrounds, where the local drive-through testing clinics are held. Additionally, he helped to coordinate the delivery and donation of surplus daily products from Umpqua Dairy to our local UCAN Food Bank.

“The Commissioners really did a good job of dividing up responsibilities and roles among themselves and making sure that all aspects of County government were still up and operating well throughout the pandemic,” Kurtz said. He also stated that Commissioner Freeman’s orchestration of Douglas County’s COVID-19 response has been incredibly effective.

“Leadership at that level is, in large part, the ability to get the appropriate people to the table, get everybody focused on the same mission, and then help provide the resources for people to do good work and move things forward,” Kurtz said. “He did all of those things very, very well.”

Commissioner Boice said that because of Commissioner Freeman’s leadership and a strong team effort, *“Douglas County was probably better prepared, and responded better than anyplace else in the country.”*

The State of Oregon Details Phase One Reopening Requirements for Businesses

Officials with the State released details on Phase One of Oregon’s Reopening Plan. Douglas County has applied to enter Phase One reopening, which if approved, could start as early as Friday, May 15. They are awaiting approval from the Governor. Below are some key components the State listed as Phase One Reopening rules for businesses. These are just highlights; for the complete list of guidelines, visit OHA’s [website](#).

- **Retail** - Several categories of retail stores, including furniture stores, jewelry stores and boutiques, will be able to operate statewide as of Friday. Other retail businesses will only be allowed to reopen once Douglas County is approved for Phase One. Retail reopening guidance can be found [here](#). Employees will be required to wear masks. There are specific guidelines for [shopping centers and malls](#).
- **Restaurants** – Restaurant operators must space tables six feet apart, limit parties to 10 people or fewer, and provide masks to workers. Employees must maintain “meticulous” hand hygiene. [Guidelines](#) also state that on-site food and drink consumption must wrap up by 10 p.m. Counter/bar seating is prohibited. Menus must be touch-free or single-use.
- **Personal services** – [This category](#) includes barber shops, hair salons, spas, nail and tanning salons and tattoo parlors. Clients must be screened prior to appointment (“Have you had a cough?” “Have you had a fever?” etc.) If the client answers “yes,” the appointment must be rescheduled. Client information, including contact info and date/time of appointment, must be recorded. Clients must be spaced at least six feet apart. Employees must wear masks. There are stringent requirements for disinfecting work stations.
- **Gyms** – Gyms are also included in Phase 1, but detailed guidelines have not yet been released.

Once Douglas County is approved for Phase One Reopening, the above businesses can resume operations in accordance with the state guidelines. For the general public, the state advises the following during Phase One:

- Stay home if you are sick or vulnerable
- Practice good hygiene, including thoroughly washing hands
- Strongly consider using a face covering in public
- Maintain physical distance
- Stay close to home; avoid overnight trips and minimize non-essential travel
- Gatherings are limited to 25 people, with social distancing

The state is still considering what Phase Two and Phase Three of Reopening Oregon would look like, as well as when they could possibly happen. Phase Two could potentially allow for gatherings of up to 100 people and for non-essential travel to resume. Phase Three which may not begin until a vaccine or treatment is available – would lift the ban on large gatherings like sporting events and conventions.

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 resources available, call the 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 at www.douglaspublichealthnetwork.org. 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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