



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 COMMAND CENTER



Mercy Medical Center



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 2, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) – The Douglas County Board of Commissioners are pleased to announce that the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team is now in a unified command structure, meaning KC Bolton now shares the Incident Command role with Douglas Public Health Network's Executive Director and Preparedness Coordinator, Teresa Mutschler.

Mutschler's background is primarily in Emergency Services. She began her career as a Paramedic working in Douglas County for a private ambulance service. In 1998, she was appointed as the EMS Operations Manager until 2008 when Douglas County Fire District #2 acquired the ambulance service. Mutschler then served as the EMS Battalion Chief for the Fire District until 2016.

Following her career in EMS, Mutschler began working for Douglas Public Health Network in 2017, where she serves in her current role. She is a state and nationally certified Paramedic and holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Safety and a Masters in Non-Profit Administration.

“Teresa and her team at Douglas Public Health Network have been engaged in the COVID-19 response with the county since the beginning,” stated Commissioner Freeman. “Teresa’s professional and leadership qualities make her an ideal Incident Commander to work in a unified manner with KC Bolton.”

Local COVID-19 Test Results

As of 12:00, April 2, 2020, there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The number of positive cases stands at ten, zero recovered, zero deaths and 282 negative tests for COVID-19 in the county.

“We believe the social distancing measures are working. It is important to understand this emergency isn’t over and residents need to continue practicing the recommendations that have been widely distributed. However, it is uplifting to see that current measures appear to be working, said Dr. Dannenhoffer.”

Officials are emphasizing that the COVID-19 positive cases and potential exposures are throughout the county. A graphic was created to visually show this information, which Dr. Dannenhoffer utilized in his Facebook Live event Wednesday evening.

Douglas Public Health Network sponsored their 5th COVID-19 drive through testing clinic on Tuesday, March 31st 2020. 34 more residents were tested, bringing the total to 168 tested so far in the DPHN sponsored testing clinics. The next clinic will be in Roseburg, Friday April 3rd. Plans are being made for a possible testing clinic in Reedsport, dates and times will be confirmed and released in tomorrow's update. 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 process. 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 very 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.

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.](#)

Douglas County Sheriff's Office Warns of Scams

It's, unfortunately, a harsh reality that anytime a crisis occurs, the efforts of scammers intensify. The same is true during this COVID-19 public health emergency. Law Enforcement is learning of attempts to obtain personal identifying information or to fraudulently solicit financial support from members of the community. Offers of financial relief, COVID-19 testing, cures, requests for donations to fraudulent charitable organizations are among those that are widely circulating.

As always, residents are encouraged to closely guard their information and to carefully reflect the service being offered or what actions are being asked of them before taking action.

- Never give out any identifying or financial information over the telephone
- Thoroughly research any organization requesting donations before considering a donation. Donate to verified organizations only through official methods.
- Speak to your medical provider before accepting a medical treatment from anyone outside of your normal medical care team
- Hang up on robo calls
- If you believe you have fallen victim to a scam, contact your local law enforcement agency as soon as possible!
- Share these tips with those who are susceptible to falling victim.

In partnership with each other, we can prevent further hardship during this time.

Aviva Health stands up respiratory clinic for patients experiencing symptoms of COVID-19

Aviva Health has established a respiratory clinic for its patients who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, an effort focused on mitigating the unnecessary use of local emergency department capacity and preserving rapidly dwindling supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks, gowns, goggles and gloves.

Additionally, Aviva Health is now offering telehealth visits to its patients across Douglas County, giving them vital access to care during Oregon's shelter in place order, a directive from Gov. Kate Brown aimed at flattening the curve of COVID-19.

“The respiratory clinic and telehealth services are two crucial steps Aviva Health is taking to combat the spread of coronavirus throughout Douglas County,” says Aviva Health Chief Operating Officer Edward Larsen. “These resources are crucial components of our efforts to ease demand for emergency department services, screen people who are symptomatic for coronavirus, and ensure patients who are well continue to receive the preventive care they require during the shelter in place order.”

The added benefit of these actions, according to Larsen, is conserving Aviva Health’s stock of PPE during a time when worldwide demand for protective medical equipment far exceeds supplies.

Patients who present with cough, fever or shortness of breath will be evaluated in the respiratory clinic and counseled on next steps, which could range from self-care at home to a referral for COVID-19 testing available through Douglas Public Health Network. Aviva Health is not currently a COVID-19 testing site.

Aviva Health patients of all ages who are healthy and due for a well visit can use telehealth services.

“Telehealth services allow our patients who are in good health to continue receiving the preventive care they require without exposing them to the risk of mingling with individuals who are sick,” Larsen says.

To schedule a respiratory clinic or telehealth visit, please call (541) 672-9596.

Community members who have questions about or are concerned they have coronavirus should call the DPHN Coronavirus Hotline at (541) 464-6550. For more information, please visit www.aviva.health/coronavirus.

Governor temporarily blocks commercial evictions

Gov. Kate Brown on Wednesday placed a 90-day moratorium on commercial evictions for nonpayment. Many business owners have been struggling to pay rent in light slowdowns or closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Brown’s executive order also strengthens a previous ban on residential evictions and prohibits landlords from charging tenants late fees for nonpayment of rent during the moratorium.

Regarding mortgages, the Governor and the Coronavirus Economic Advisory Council are also working with lenders and exploring state and federal policy solutions. The Consumer Finance Protection Bureau created a [guide](#) to mortgage relief options related to COVID-19, and the Department of Consumer and Business Services has provided [guidance](#) to Oregon lenders.

Emergency order to protect struggling businesses

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business services has issued an emergency order to protect individuals and businesses struggling because of disruptions related to COVID-19. The order requires all insurance companies to postpone policy cancellations and non-renewals; extend grace periods for premium payments; and extend deadlines for reporting claims.

The Division of Financial Regulation is sharing answers to frequently-asked questions about this order on its [FAQ page](#).

State launches COVID-19 price-gouging hotline

A number of Oregon stores have been sent cease-and-desist letters by the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) after allegedly marking up the prices of certain goods. Items such as toilet paper, bottled water and masks have been in high demand due to the COVID-19 situation, and some retailers have taken advantage of this increased demand by raising prices.

The DOJ has set up a hotline to field price-gouging complaints for consumers. If you feel you have been charged an excessive price for a product or service, you can call the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline at (503) 378-8442 or file a complaint online using the [Consumer Complaint Form](#).

As of earlier this week, the DOJ had received 110 written complaints and 185 calls about price gouging on its new hotline and online complaint form

Barriers to OHP access removed during COVID-19

It will be easier for Oregonians to qualify for, enroll in and stay enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) due to barriers that were recently removed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) under guidance from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Key changes include:

- All members who are currently enrolled in OHP will not lose coverage during this crisis.
- Individuals can sign up for OHP without having to verify their income (submit a pay stub) with their application.
- Federal stimulus payments and increased unemployment payments will not affect OHP eligibility.

OHA has developed a [fact sheet](#) with more information on OHP and COVID-19. The fact sheet is also available in [Spanish](#).

A message from the Mercy Foundation:

The Mercy Foundation and DPHN continue to partner together to collect PPE donations for all EMS, clinics and hospitals in Douglas County. The response from our community has been overwhelming helping our healthcare workers and first responders with supplies. We have received contributions from individuals, dentists, local and national businesses. Every donation has made a huge difference!

We still have a need and are currently seeking donations of NEW, unopened boxes of:

- Masks (surgical, N-95)
- Gloves (all sizes - small, medium, large, xl)
- Gowns
- Shoe covers
- Hand sanitizer

If you are interested in making homemade masks - this is the local group coordinating these efforts -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/658730244919310/>

If you have any of the above new items in unopened boxes/containers and would like to donate them, please contact the Mercy Foundation at (541) 677-4818 as they are serving as the central collection site for these types donations. Arrangements can also be made for the supplies to be picked up.

Theater group shifts to online storytelling

The Umpqua Actors Community Theater has been hosting a "Storytellers' Theatre" on its [Facebook page](#) to keep kids entertained during the COVID-19 outbreak.

"This is a fun way to introduce your kids to the performing arts, as our guests will read books all about theatre, music and performing," UACT said in a post.

The online storytelling began on March 25 and has featured videos of various guests reading books out loud. The videos are all archived on the site. UACT stated that "Storytellers' Theatre" is intended to "bring a little sunshine to your life."

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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