



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

Updated: JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) In case you have not heard the good news, the Governor has approved Douglas County's application to begin her Phase One Reopening process starting Friday, May 15, 2020. [Click here](#) to read the Governor's approval letter received late last night. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners released a [press release](#) early this morning announcing the reopening approval. Following the Governor's press conference this morning, our Commissioners released an [update](#) that provides more information about the Governor's Phase One Reopening guidelines. Your Douglas County Board of Commissioners would like to remind residents that the reopening process is completely mandated by the state, and your county officials do not have authority to enforce, change or approve any of these guidelines.

Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results

It is Thursday, May 14, 2020 and as of 12:00 pm today, there **NO** new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. Also, 23 of the 24 cases that tested positive have recovered. There has only been one positive case reported in the last 24 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-three 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 14, 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*	23	0	1	1644	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

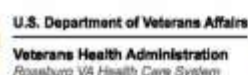
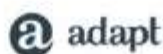
The next drive through clinic led by DPHN is scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2020. If you are having symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches and pains, diarrhea, sore throat or decreased sense of smell and taste, talk to your health care provider about being tested for COVID-19. The first drive thru testing site was piloted in the county on March 17, 2020, there have been 480 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.](#)

Governor's Press Conference Today About Her Phase One Reopening Plan

Douglas County and 27 other Oregon counties will be allowed to enter the Governor's Phase One Reopening plan starting this Friday, May 15, 2020, the Governor said at a press conference today. This means residents will be able to eat out at



restaurants, schedule an appointment with their hairdresser, and shop at retail stores, as soon as tomorrow. **No approval or applications are needed, as local business will be responsible for researching, following and implementing their reopening based on the Governor’s sector specific Phase One Reopening guidelines.**

Businesses will have to follow strict [State Mandated Guidelines](#) to keep customers and employees safe. [Gyms](#) will be allowed to operate under Phase One, among other measures, gyms will need to maintain physical distancing between gym users and close all showers and pools. [Restaurants and Bars](#) can open for sit-down service if they can keep groups 6 feet apart, cap parties at 10 people, require employees to wear masks, and wrap up food and beverage service by 10 p.m. Hair salons, barber shops and other [Personal Service Businesses](#) will need to screen clients before they come in for appointments to ensure the clients are not showing any symptoms of sickness. Members of the public will be allowed to gather in groups of up to 25, as long as physical distancing can be maintained. It is still recommended that people wear masks in public, practice good hygiene including hand-washing, and stay home if they are sick. Elderly and other at-risk Oregonians are advised to continue to stay home and avoid contact with people outside of their household. People who normally work in an office, but have been working from home during the pandemic must continue to work at home.

“COVID-19 is still present in Oregon,” OHA Director Pat Allen said. “Every community remains vulnerable to the virus. That means our personal actions each day will either slow the virus or spread it.”

Oregon counties had to apply to the state to be approved for Phase One reopening. Douglas County submitted its application last Friday. The applications were reviewed by state medical and public health experts. Twenty-eight counties were approved; two are pending further review (Marion and Polk), and three have not yet applied (Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas). Douglas County and other approved counties met prerequisites including: a drop in COVID-19 hospitalization rates; adequate hospital capacity to manage a potential surge; sufficient PPE supply; and sufficient testing, contact-tracing and isolation capabilities. The counties must remain in Phase One for at least three weeks before entering Phase Two. Details of Phase Two are still being worked out. The state recently released new guidelines for [Child Care](#) providers, and will be releasing additional guidelines for public transit, summer camps, summer schools and others soon. They hope to reopen schools statewide in the fall, but plans are still in progress.

The Governor did caution that COVID-19 cases are expected to increase as the state reopens, but warns that a significant spike in new cases could result in renewed restrictions. *“This is really, really hard. But we know that if we can’t continue to beat back the virus, then we’re going to have to implement restriction measures again. And I don’t think any Oregonian wants to go backward.”*

Mercy Participating in Asymptomatic COVID-19 Testing Program

Mercy Medical Center is one of two hospitals in Southern Oregon to participate in a new testing program focused on asymptomatic COVID-19 patients. Testing started this week in Mercy’s Emergency Department. The goal is to randomly collect and test 15 samples per week. The program helps state and local health officials get an idea of whether COVID-19 has an undetected presence in the community among people who do not show symptoms. Participation is voluntary; nurses will ask the randomly selected patients if they would like to participate. There is no cost to the patient. Testing involves a nasopharyngeal swab being placed into the back of your nostril for 2-3 seconds (this might make you sneeze, cough, or your eyes water, but it shouldn’t hurt). The swab is then sent to the state public health laboratory, and results will be back in several days. Your doctor will contact you with results. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be referred to the local public health authority for follow-up. Results are confidential. Asymptomatic positive cases will be advised to isolate at home until seven days after the date of the test – or, if they develop symptoms, 72 hours after their fever and cough subside. The asymptomatic testing program is being carried out at selected hospitals throughout Oregon to help health officials get an idea of where COVID-19 may be occurring. The random sampling will include patients of all ages. Tests are also still being done on patients who do show symptoms of COVID-19.

How to Talk to Kids About COVID-19

It is important to talk to your children about COVID-19. Many adults are concerned about getting and giving the virus to somebody they love and we know children are also fearful and frustrated by the dramatic life changes we’ve seen in the last 2 months. Children don’t have the same emotional and intellectual tools to manage it like adults do which influences the way one talks to kids about the risk and what they can do to help reduce risk. [This new electronic book/YouTube video is a great resource to share with your kids.](#)

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](#).

###

Contact [Tamara Howell](#), Public Information Officer, Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, (541) 670-2804 cell/(541) 957-4896 tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us
Contact [Vanessa Becker](#), Public Information Officer, Douglas Public Health Network, (541) 817-6552 cell / (541) 440-3571 vanessa@douglaspublichealthnetwork.org