



# DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

## JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 22, 2020

### DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - CASE AND DAILY LOCAL UPDATE



**(Douglas County, Ore.)** Memorial Day weekend is upon us. It is observed on the last Monday in May to commemorate the brave men and women who have died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. This year, Memorial Day will be observed for the 152nd time. Long before flyovers, speeches and parades, Memorial Day (formerly known as Decoration Day) was observed during Civil War time, with the humble tradition of decorating the graves of the war dead with hand-picked flowers. May was believed to have been chosen because flowers would be in bloom across the country. That humble tradition of honor is what matters most today. It is something that no virus or

other disaster can take from us. Yes, we may observe it differently, but it cannot and will not stop it or belittle the sacrifices that were made to keep our great nation safe and free. We will never forget their service and sacrifice.

This year, with COVID-19 we are living amidst unprecedented times. That is why it is more important than ever to continue our time-honored Memorial traditions, although we may have to find a new way to observe them. We will continue to pay tribute to our heroes, our fallen, our veterans and our military. It will remain a time to set-aside differences, stand-together, support one-another and honor the sacrifices that have been made to preserve our way of life. Just because we can't gather together in the normal way for Memorial Day, doesn't mean that we can't observe these traditions, it just means that we just have to be more creative in our approach. Although we must honor them from afar, you can still pay tribute utilizing virtual videos, social media posts, yard signs, window banners, proudly flying the American Flag, offering up a toast to our fallen, wear your military gear, taking a stroll through a memorial park or placing flowers on a grave.

Locally, commemorative wreaths will be placed near our Veterans Memorial at the Douglas County Courthouse, located near the front steps under the beautiful elm tree, that honor our fallen brave soldiers from Douglas County. Additionally, flags will be placed on graves at the VA cemetery, and more wreaths and flowers will be placed at other memorials and individual grave sites around the county.

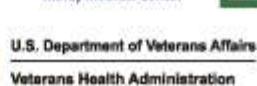
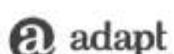
The Oregon Department of Veteran's Affairs will be hosting the first-ever Virtual Statewide Memorial Day Ceremony via the [ODVA's Facebook page](#) beginning at 10:00 am on Monday, May 25, 2020. The virtual ceremony, will include a messages reflecting on the significance of our great nation and the generations of proud veterans that have safeguarded it.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is offering a new way for the public to pay tribute to our honored veterans with a new online initiative called the [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#). The site, which contains a memorial page for each veteran and service member interred in a national cemetery, has been available since 2019, but this week the VA is introducing a new way to observe Memorial Day by permitting online visitors to leave a comment of tribute on a veteran's page. In keeping with tradition, American flags will be flown at half-staff from sun up to sun down across the nation on Monday, May 25, 2020.

Twenty years ago, in the year 2000, Congress passed and the President signed into law "[The National Moment of Remembrance Act](#)," encouraging all Americans to pause at 3:00 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a moment of silence to remember and honor those who died in service to our nation. Whatever your Memorial Day may traditions hold, make sure to take time out of your day to pay tribute to those that came before us, defended our freedom and made the ultimate sacrifice.

#### **Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results**

It is Friday, May 22, 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 75 days.



Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:

| New Cases as of 12:00 pm May 22, 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  | 2110                       | 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 drive-through clinic will be held in Roseburg today, Friday, May 22, 2020. There is also a drive-through clinic in Reedsport on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our drive-through testing clinics have conducted over 500 nasal swab/PCR tests. 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 508 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](http://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 tonight, Friday, May 22, 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](#).

### **President Orders Flags Lowered to Half-Staff in Honor of the Victims of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic**

President Donald Trump issued a nationwide proclamation today ordering all flags across the U.S. to be flown at half-staff in honor of the victims of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The order will be in effect until sunset on May 24, 2020. You can read the full Presidential Proclamation on the [White House website](#).

### **What to Do If You Lost Health Coverage Due To COVID-19**

If your health insurance was through your employer and you lost your job due to COVID-19, you may be wondering what to do next to meet the health needs of yourself and your family. The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) has put together a [website](#) that explains 7 ways to maintain coverage after a layoff or a reduction in hours:

- **Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace** – You can purchase insurance here, and if you've just lost your job, you may qualify for a subsidy and a special enrollment period.
- **Oregon Health Plan** – OHP provides physical, dental and mental health for households with lower incomes. You can apply for OHP anytime.
- **COBRA** – Signing up for COBRA would enable you to continue the coverage you were receiving through your employer. There are costs involved.
- **State continuation** – A worker who loses employer-based coverage may be eligible for state continuation. You must have had continuous health coverage for at least three months prior to your coverage ending.
- **Medicare** – Those 65 and older, or who have certain disabilities, can enroll in Medicare.
- **Through employer** – Some employers may continue to offer health insurance for employees whose hours have been reduced, although coverage may change or employees may face added costs.
- **Accessing coverage through a spouse** – If your spouse has employer-based insurance, you may be able to access insurance through your spouse's plan.

More details on all seven options, and helpful links, are available on the [DCBS website](#). If you need assistance in looking at your options, you can contact a licensed health insurance agent. Find a local agent [here](#) by entering your ZIP code and selecting the "Health Insurance Agents" option.

### **Self-Serve Gas will Come to an End at Midnight on Saturday, May 23, 2020**

The Office of the State Fire Marshal announced yesterday that it's temporary rules change allowing Oregon gas retailers to provide self-service on a voluntary basis will end at midnight, on Saturday, May 23, 2020. Starting Sunday, May 24, attendants will again be providing service at gas stations in Oregon where self-service is not allowed. [Self-service is allowed](#) in some coastal counties and in eastern and central Oregon. Initially, a temporary rules change was implemented to address worker shortages at stations statewide because of COVID-19.

*"We want to thank Oregonians and the many Oregon businesses who provide gasoline for their patience as we allowed for voluntary self-service at Oregon gas stations where that service had not been available before,"* said State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. *"Starting Sunday, self-serve gas will no longer be allowed in counties where it is already prohibited by state law. Areas of the state where self-serve was allowed, in some coastal counties and areas of central and eastern Oregon, will see no change."*

## **Need Help Filing Taxes? CASH Oregon Can Help**

CASH Oregon, a program of Metropolitan Family Services is offering free tax filing assistance for Oregonians for households that make less than \$69,000 a year. Because of COVID-19, CASH Oregon is offering the free Volunteer Tax Assistance via phone. IRS certified volunteers can answer your tax questions and guide you through filing your own taxes. For more information, go to the [CASH Oregon website](#) or call (503) 966-7942. The free tax help hotline is available Monday through Wednesday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

## **Oregon Air National Guard to Continue Air Force Salute Flyovers In Oregon**

The Oregon Air National Guard is scheduled to continue flying F-15 Eagle flyovers over hospitals and other locations throughout Oregon Friday, May 22 and Monday, May 25 in order to salute Oregonians. The flyovers are a joint effort between Oregon's 173rd Fighter Wing, based in Klamath Falls, and the 142nd Wing, based in Portland, aimed at supporting those on the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic and thanking those who are working to keep Oregonians safe and healthy each day. The tribute also hopes to lift morale during a time of severe health and economic impacts, and remember those brave service members who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. People are encouraged to view the flights from the safety of their own homes and practice physical distancing. All passes are approximately 2,000 feet above ground level at approximately 400 mph airspeed. Flights could be canceled or times changed due to inclement weather or operational contingencies.

### Estimated Schedule for Flyovers in Douglas County for Monday, May 25, 2020:

- 11:10 a.m. VA Roseburg Health Care System, Roseburg, Ore.
- 11:10 a.m. Mercy Medical Center, Roseburg, Ore.
- 11:44 a.m. Lower Umpqua Hospital, Reedsport, Ore.

## **Health Officials Warn About Toxic Algae Blooms**

Warm summer days are on the horizon, and local and state health officials are advising residents to steer clear of toxic algae blooms when visiting rivers, lakes and reservoirs. There is a permanent recreational use advisory for South Umpqua River and Lawson Bar, where harmful blue-green algae blooms have been found in pools in the bedrock along the river's edge. Signs have been posted at several access points along the river noting that dogs have died after drinking from the pools and children are also at risk of falling ill. People should avoid water contact in these areas and stay away from the rock formations along the shore. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) officials say toxic algae blooms can occur in rivers, lakes and reservoirs statewide, especially during warm weather.

*“Because cyanobacteria blooms are naturally occurring worldwide, they can form in any body of water,”* OHA officials said. *“Many blooms are harmless, but under the right conditions – when weather, sunlight, water temperature nutrients and water chemistry are ideal – they can produce cyanotoxins that make people and animals sick.”*

Exposure can occur when water is swallowed while swimming, or when water droplets are inhaled during high-speed activities such as water skiing or wakeboarding. Symptoms include diarrhea, cramps, vomiting, numbness, dizziness and fainting. Cyanotoxins aren't absorbed through the skin, but people with sensitive skin may develop a rash if exposed. Because of their size, young children and dogs are particularly vulnerable. Dogs who drink contaminated water, lick their wet fur, or eat toxins from the floating mats or dried crust along the shore, can fall ill.

Not all lakes, rivers and reservoirs are monitored for blooms. This year, due to COVID-19, even fewer bodies of water will be tested. Oregonians are advised to stay away from any water that looks foamy, scummy, thick like paint, and pea-green, blue-green or brownish-red in color. The advice is: “When in doubt, stay out.” Residents can check the latest advisories on the [Harmful Algae Blooms website](#).

Douglas County's Public Health Officer Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer advised caution in general when recreating in or near water. *“The biggest risk, clearly, is drowning,”* he said. *“People should be very careful in the water, which is typically cold and fast flowing.”*

## **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](http://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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Contact [Tamara Howell](#), Public Information Officer, Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, (541) 670-2804 cell/(541) 957-4896 [tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us](mailto:tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us)  
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