



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

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

(Douglas County, Ore.) Every day brings with it more concerns about public safety with the COIVD-19 pandemic. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management released information today stating that there is, "No known transmission of COVID-19 through food or food packaging." The assertion was backed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) who want to assure Oregonians that there is no evidence that human or animal food—or food packaging is directly related to the transmission of COVID-19. There have been a number of national and regional food processing facilities that have closed due to COVID-19, but at this time, they do not believe that those products will need to be withdrawn or recalled from the market, should someone related to the growing or processing of the food test positive.

"The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person, such as between people who are in close contact with one another, or through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes," said Paul Cieslak, M.D., senior health adviser for OHA's COVID-19 response. ODA and OHA, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are working together to offer guidance to employers as they initiate programs to protect the health and safety of their employees, the food and the food sources so they can keep the food supply chain going. The workers are the backbone of this critical industry. [Click here](#) to read the rest of the story and for a list of food, employer, processing and distribution recommendations.

Local COVID-19 Test Results

As of 12:00 pm, April 30, 2020, there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County*. There remain 23 individuals who have tested positive, of those, seventeen have recovered. There have been zero deaths and 1035 negative tests for COVID-19 in the county. One of the twenty-three people that have tested positive is still hospitalized. Douglas Public Health Network continues their epidemiologic investigations, identifying individuals who may have had close contact with individuals that have tested positive for COVID-19 and advising quarantine. Seventeen of the individuals who tested positive earlier have now recovered. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-19.

Get Tested & Testing

The next drive through clinic in Roseburg will be on Friday, May 1, 2020. There will also be another drive-through clinic in Reedsport on Saturday, May 2. 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 395 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](#).

Battelle System Coming to Eugene (Serving a 200 mile Radius):

The State of Oregon is working with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) on behalf of the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The federal government is using the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System to meet this mission and are bringing a system to Oregon. A system will arrive next week in Eugene and will serve a large portion of the state thanks to a 200-mile service area around the hub. There is a Battelle unit has been in place for a number of weeks in Tacoma and has been servicing healthcare organizations in the Portland metro area. An additional system is expected to arrive in Idaho Falls, Idaho that will help serve locations in eastern Oregon. If a remote site is not serviced by Cardinal Sustainable Technologies, Battelle will



**Veterans Health Administration
Roseburg VA Health Care System**



**American Red Cross
Southwest Oregon Chapter**

provide FedEx Labels for shipment to the decontamination site that makes the most sense. Soon, all of Oregon will be able to access this system to support their healthcare providers.

Will be there be a charge for the Battelle System?

There is no charge to use the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System. The system can be used by all healthcare personnel ("HCP") which refers to all paid and unpaid persons serving in healthcare settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials, including body substances (e.g., blood, tissue, and specific body fluids); contaminated medical supplies, devices, and equipment; contaminated environmental surfaces; or contaminated air, which include, but are not limited to, emergency medical service personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, dentists and dental hygienists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the healthcare facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the healthcare setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel).

How can your healthcare organization access this resource?

Please go to www.battelle.org/decon and click on the enroll button and complete the necessary information.

Unemployment Benefits Now Available to Self Employed Individuals, Contractors

Contractors, self-employed workers and others who do not qualify for regular unemployment assistance are now able to apply for benefits thanks to the federal CARES Act Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program. Starting this week, people in those categories can seek those newly available PUA benefits through the Oregon Employment Department (OED). Eligible applicants include Oregonians who do not qualify for or cannot collect benefits on a regular unemployment insurance claim, such as:

- Self-employed individuals
- Independent contractors
- Agricultural workers or others whose work is not subject to unemployment insurance tax
- Those who did not have enough wages or work hours to qualify for regular unemployment benefits and are not eligible for another extension.

Additionally, to be eligible you must be unemployed, partially unemployed or unable/unavailable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples of that include individuals who are directly caring for a household member who has COVID-19; those who have COVID-19 or are being tested for it; people who are unable to get to work due to quarantine; primary caregivers for school-age children who are unable to go to school because of the pandemic; and individuals who worked for a business that closed due to COVID-19. PUA benefits are retroactive to the first week a worker was impacted by a qualifying COVID-19 reason. Processing applications can take from one to several weeks, depending on the complexity of your situation. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling (503) 947-1794. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, call 711 Telecommunications Relay Services.

Applications can be accessed on the Employment Department's [website](#). There are three ways to submit your application:

- Email – You can email OED_PUA_INFO@oregon.gov to request a secure email link, then attach your PUA application and weekly claim reports to the secure email.
- Mail – Applications and weekly claim reports can be mailed to the Oregon Employment Department at P.O. Box 14165, Salem, OR, 97311
- Fax – You can also fax your application/claim reports to (503) 371-2893.

Elections Update - Ballots Arriving Soon, Due by May 19

Ballots for the upcoming May 19 Primary Election will be arriving in the mail soon for registered voters in Douglas County. In light of the current orders for the coronavirus pandemic, the Douglas County Clerk would like to encourage voters to stay home, stay safe, and use the new free postage option. Thanks to prepaid postage legislation passed in 2019 — a stamp is no longer needed to mail your ballot. Ballots must be returned no later than 8:00 pm on May 19, 2020.

Douglas County voters have until approximately Wednesday, May 13, 2020 to safely mail back their ballot for the May Primary Election. After that date, voters should use one of the official Douglas County ballot drop sites to return ballots. Postmarks do not qualify ballots, so as Election Day approaches, consider which delivery method will assure your ballot is counted. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some of our Douglas County ballot drop sites have changed. To find out about these changes and to find a nearby official ballot drop site, visit [Douglas County Ballot Drop Site Locations](#).

The Douglas County Clerk would like to remind voters;

- If registered voters haven't received their ballot by Friday, May 8, 2020, please contact or visit our office.
- Before turning in a ballot, make sure you have reviewed and completed both sides of the ballot.
- Make sure you sign your ballot envelope, where it lists your printed name and address.
- Make sure you sign the ballot envelope in the same manner as your most current voter registration card. For reference, see your signature on the back of your Oregon Driver License or ID.
- If you must visit the Douglas County Clerk's Office in-person, please make sure to follow the proper 6-foot physical distancing, hand washing, covering your coughs, wearing of masks and departmentally posted visitation guidelines. We encourage you to call, email or visit the website first.
- For the safety of our employees and the public, please stay home if you are sick.

For more information about the May 19 Primary Election, please visit the [Douglas County Elections Webpage](#). For Voter Education and Outreach support please contact Douglas County Elections Division* at (541) 440-4252 or email us at elections@co.douglas.or.us. Additional information can be found on the Oregon Secretary of State's website at oregonvotes.gov or by calling 1.866.673.VOTE. *Our Voter Education and Outreach Program does not provide support at political events and is entirely nonpartisan. Douglas County Elections does not endorse or discuss any particular candidates or measures.

Mercy Express Expands Services

Mercy Medical Center is expanding its Mercy Express transportation service, which helps community members – especially seniors and those with disabilities – get to and from appointments and other destinations in the county. Mercy Express operates Monday through Friday and one Saturday a month. Mercy announced this week it is expanding the service in light of the fact that a number of “Dial a Rides” have temporarily closed.

“We are borrowing a bus to be able to add extra rides on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and possibly Saturdays, if we have enough interest and need,” Mercy said in a post on its [Facebook page](#).

Cleaning efforts are also being ramped up to protect riders and drivers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and drivers have gloves, masks and sanitizer on board.

“Our Mercy Express drivers clean after every rider and have the experts at Squeaky Clean Express do regular extra sanitizing as well,” Mercy said in the Facebook post.

All rides are scheduled by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling (888) 232-8121. If no one answers, leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as a dispatcher is available.

Daily Tips: Game Night Thursday

When it comes to virtual game nights, trivia is one of the easiest games to play with your friends and family via video. All you need is a group of players, a video conferencing platform – Zoom, Google Hangouts, Facetime, Houseparty or other – and some trivia questions. Designate one person to be the host and be in charge of the questions and keeping score. Agree on a scoring system and rules (such as “no Googling answers on your phone”). The host can either come up with their own questions or use a random trivia generator [like this one](#). If you come up with your own questions, get creative with your categories! You can even have a local category like “Douglas County places.” If someone in your group has a Trivial Pursuit board, you can play Trivial Pursuit with your group – just have that person move your pieces for you when it’s your turn.

‘Shave It or Save It’ Competition Raises Awareness About COVID-19 Fund

Greater Douglas United Way has launched a friendly competition called “Shave It or Save It,” to raise awareness about a new COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. The fund is intended to assist local nonprofits in meeting the basic needs of residents adversely affected by COVID-19. The facial hair hanging in the balance is that of Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, Douglas County’s Public Health Officer, who has been the face of the county’s COVID-19 response, including through his frequent Facebook Lives on the Douglas Public Health Network’s Facebook page.

“True to his commitment to serve, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer has offered the fate of his beautiful, bristly ‘stache to the people of Douglas County and beyond,” GDUW officials said in a press release.

Depending on the votes received, Dr. Bob will either shave his thick mustache or “save it.” If you’d like to vote on whether it stays or goes, visit [Greater Douglas United Way’s website](#) and donate. A vote costs \$5. When making your donation, be sure to note whether you want Dr. Bob to #ShaveIt or #SaveIt. Votes will be accepted through May 31. For more information, email gduway@gduway.org.

Give Blood and Help Your Community

Blood supplies are seriously low and leaving home to donate blood is considered a lifesaving need. If you are healthy and feeling well, then giving blood is a safe and great way to help your community. The Red Cross has implemented sanitizing and social distancing policies to ensure you’re safe while making a lifesaving donation. Anyone interested in donating must make an appointment by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or calling (800) 733-2767.

5/01/2020	1:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Roseburg Blood Donation Ctr, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg
5/01/2020	10:30 am - 4:00 pm	Sutherlin Community Center, Sutherlin
5/04/2020	1:00 pm – 6:30 pm	Roseburg Blood Donation Ctr, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg
5/05/2020	12:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Roseburg Blood Donation Ctr, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg
5/08/2020	11:00 am – 4:30 pm	Roseburg Blood Donation Ctr, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg

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.

**Local case data includes all tests done in the county, and are not exclusive to DPHN testing. Further, reporting numbers are accurate as of time listed on this release. These numbers may not match other organizations, who report at different times of the day.*

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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
Contact [Vanessa Becker](#), Public Information Officer, Douglas Public Health Network, (541) 817-6552 cell / (541) 440-3571 vanessa@douglaspublichealthnetwork.org