



# DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 16, 2020

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

**(Douglas County, Ore.)** Today marks **100 days** since the first positive COVID-19 case was reported in Douglas County, and 109 days since the first case was reported in Oregon. As we pass this unprecedented milestone, we reflect back on all the changes our county, state, nation and world have undergone in the last 14+ weeks. Just about every aspect of our daily lives has been impacted, and possibly forever changed since the onset of this pandemic. We have seen changes that have resulted in incredible economic impacts with job loss and work disruption; changes in access to healthcare and the creation of innovative patient service options; changes to how we gather, shop, dine and recreate; a new found awareness for personal distancing and how to use personal protective equipment (PPE); parents, grandparents, students and educators struggling with the loss of in-classroom teaching, but discovering how to carry-on academic instruction; the outpouring of community support and volunteers for those at higher risk of contracting the virus or in need of assistance; localized cooperation and innovation with testing, reporting and crisis management; and individuals and families learning how to cope and be creative with the loss of normal life activities and events. No matter how this pandemic has impacted your life, we know that our county's incredible resilient nature will help us to persevere, continue to help and support one another and keep ourselves and our communities safe from a resurgence of cases.

Even though we have not had any new positive cases in our county in eleven days, the COVID-19 virus is still here and the threat of exposure is far from over. With the tremendous surge in positive cases in Oregon over the last few days it is prime example of how fast an outbreak can occur when distancing and health guidelines are disregarded.

*"We have seen a definite spike in cases Statewide and we are beginning to see a shift of new cases from metro areas to our rural counties. The threat of the virus is still real, even in areas where there is currently a low case load such as Union County, who went from 6 cases last week, to 240 in less than a week. Union County now has the highest per capita positive cases in the state. We are more prepared than we were in March, but the virus is still real and we know that staying home when you're sick, socially distancing and wearing masks when in public **WILL** have an impact on the transmission of this virus and help in reducing outbreaks like we're seeing in other counties,"* stated Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, Douglas County Public Health Officer.

A surge, such as the one in rural eastern Oregon could easily happen here, so it is important that our residents stay vigilant in following the health and safety guidelines for hand washing, coughing, staying home if you are sick, seeking care if you are ill and caution when planning and attending social activities. Do your part, and help us to keep our numbers low!

**Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results:** It is Tuesday, June 16, 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 is 29. Testing continues, as DPHN has been holding 2-3 clinics a week and hospitals, urgent cares and clinics continue to test. **Twenty-nine people have tested positive in the county and twenty-eight of those twenty-nine 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 29 cases in 100 days.

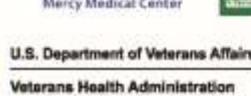
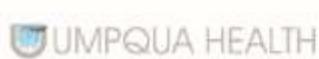
Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:

New Cases as of 12:00 pm June 16, 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	29	28	0	1	3906	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 testing clinic will be today, Tuesday, June 16, 2020, in Roseburg. 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-through testing site was piloted in the county on March 17, 2020, there have been**



**728 people tested in 35 the drive-through clinics, while additional testing continues in hospitals, urgent cares and clinics.** 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](#).

### **Latest Economic and Resource Update from Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB)**

**Are You Sure You Are Not Eligible for Unemployment Benefits?** Financial assistance is available for contract, gig, and self-employed workers who have lost income due to coronavirus impacts, even if not normally eligible for unemployment benefits. For information about the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, and how to submit a claim, visit [The CARES Act](#).

**Are You Running Out of Unemployment Benefits?** Those who have exhausted regular unemployment benefits may apply for a 13-week extension through Pandemic Extension Unemployment Assistance (PEUA). Information about this program is available at [The CARES Act](#).

**Do You Need Payroll Support Even if Your Business Can't Open Yet** It has been reported that payroll funding assistance is again available through the [Paycheck Protection Act](#) for small businesses, following several large corporations' decision to return multiple very large awards made earlier. This program helps business owners retain good employees whether or not the business is active, by providing funds for continued employment even if the business is temporarily closed. This support is structured as a loan which is forgiven if the business has met certain requirements during the loan period. Contact the local [Small Business Administration](#) office or your local bank for the latest information.

**Don't Know Where to Go for Help?** [Click here](#) for a helpful website that is well-organized by question and issues.

**What is the Unemployment "Cliff"?** Unemployment claims filed earlier this year will begin to expire in mid-to-late summer, absent additional federal legislation. Those benefit losses will occur in the same large clusters as the original claim filings, presenting the possibility that a very large number of residents will lose financial support at the same time, creating extreme competition for whatever employment may then be available. Employers who are having difficulty filling jobs due to the availability of unemployment benefits may find it helpful to alert potential applicants to this distinct possibility.

**Expanded Employment Horizons** Opportunities to work remotely in more diverse and well-paid capacities are growing much more rapidly than original projections, as a direct result of the pandemic. Companies have realized that remote services can meet an unexpectedly wide range of operational needs, providing greater efficiency and customer convenience. SOWIB is pursuing avenues to provide local training and workforce preparation to help our region capitalize on this trend.

**WorkSource Centers:** [Oregon Employment Department](#) services remain available by phone and on-line only, with significantly increased staff support. In-person public contact with OED staff is prohibited to minimize risk of spreading the virus, especially to individuals whose resources may already be strained. Centers will be allowed to reopen following prerequisites now being developed by the state. For status and claim wait times [click here](#).

**Community Colleges:** Both Umpqua and Southwestern Oregon Community College are working to remain poised for any of several possible fall class configurations. Umpqua Community College reports continuing interest in enrollments. Southwestern Community College anticipates ending its fall semester with final exams before Thanksgiving, with classes resuming in the new year.

**PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, masks, sanitizer etc.) can be ordered on line at [sowibsupply.com](#) (service within the region only), with speedy delivery. SOWIB strongly encourage businesses to continue observing state requirements for masks, and to consider offering them to customers, so that we can more speedily and safely reopen. To date, SOWIB has distributed more than 6,000 gloves and 75,000 masks in addition to locally-manufactured sanitizer.

### **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. **Local COVID-19 Hotline: 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 [Douglas County Government website](#) or the [DPHN website](#). Find additional information on state or federal COVID-19 response from the following websites: [Oregon Health Authority](#), [Centers for Disease Control](#), and by calling or logging onto [211Info](#).

**Got Questions about the Governor's Phased Reopening Plans?** If you have questions or need more information about the Governor's Phased Reopening Plans or Sector Specific Guidelines go to <https://govstatus.egov.com/reopening-oregon>. There is also a video presentation about Phase Two available [here](#). Or you may contact the [Governor's Office](#), the [Oregon Health Authority \(OHA\)](#) or the [Oregon State Office](#) responsible for regulating your business or agency, or the business or venue that you wish to visit.

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