



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 18, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) How to keep Your Independence Day Celebrations COVID-19 Safe: If you're planning a family gathering, camping trip or holiday bash to celebrate the Fourth of July, we encourage you to please do so safely. It's no secret that most of us are more than a little restless and are eager to shake off the caution fatigue caused from all the guidelines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, but remember, the virus is still here, and in order to keep COVID-19 from crashing your party, everyone should continue to include health and safety guidelines as a part of their event planning.

1. **Follow the State Guidelines:** We know you are tired of seeing and hearing the COVID-19 health notices like wash your hands, cover your cough, stay home if you are sick and stay six feet apart, but the statistics show that these preventative measures are working when people choose to follow them. The recent surges in positive case numbers are a direct result of individuals not heeding to the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Oregon Health Authority, the Center for Disease Control, Douglas Public Health Network and Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, our Douglas County Public Health Officer. Douglas County is currently in Phase Two of the Governor's Reopening Plan, [click here](#) for the state's guidelines for gatherings during Phase Two.

2. **Limit the Number of Guests:** We know you are more than ready to fire up the grill and celebrate summer, but remember, right now, smaller is better. Try to keep your guest list to an acceptable number given the space you have. Think local and invite people from your local area to minimize travel and the spread of the virus. Also, plan ahead and know where to keep everyone. Try to avoid having everyone seated at one big table. Spread out the guests at smaller, separated tables.

3. **Keep it Clean:** If you're the host, make sure to clean and disinfect everything before guests arrive, as well as continually sanitize during the event. Wipe down tables, chairs, bathrooms and common areas with disinfectant. Have a good supply of masks, hand wipes, tissues and hand sanitizer readily available, and encourage guests to use it. Better yet, give each guest a party favor bag filled with these items.

4. **Keep the Fun Outside:** Most research suggests you are less likely to catch or transmit coronavirus if you're outside, wearing a mask and keeping your distance from others, remember it's six feet apart. Plan ahead and set up the tables, chairs and seating areas to allow for proper social distancing and encourage guests to spread out during the event.

5. **Too Many Chefs in the Kitchen:** We know it's tempting to check on the cook and taste all the good eats in advance, but try and avoid the conversations around the grill. Give the chef some space. If you are the chef or grill master, try to limit your time cooking while guests are there and to prepare as much food as you can in advance. It is also a good idea to set up several tables or areas with food options instead of one smorgasbord family style table of good eats.

6. **Sharing in Not Caring:** This is the time when the old adage, 'sharing is caring' does not apply. Never share utensils, drinks or food. Instead of community condiments, opt for single serve packets, prepare individual meals or serve guests instead of everyone serving themselves potluck style from the buffet. Make it fun and offer disposable cups that guests can personalize with a design, stickers or a marker to identify whose cup is whose.

6. **Keep your distance:** Remember it still gets chilly at night, but that's not a reason to head indoors and get too close to one another in a small confined space. Set a time limit for the event so that ends well before dark or when the cold starts to set in. Or offer blankets or coats to guests that wish to stay later, but continue to keep the festivity outside.

The bottom line is please use common sense, follow the current guidelines and don't let COVID-19 ruin your celebration.

Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results: It is Thursday, June 18, 2020, and as of 12:00 pm today, there are **three** new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The total number of positive cases in Douglas County is now 32. Testing continues, as DPHN has been holding 2-3 clinics a week and hospitals, urgent cares and clinics continue to test. **Thirty-two people have tested positive in the county and twenty-eight of those thirty-two 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 32 cases in 102 days.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Roseburg VA Health Care System



American Red Cross
Southwest Oregon Chapter



Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:

New Cases as of 12:00 pm June 18, 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
3	32	28	0	1	4033	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 Friday, June 19, 2020. 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 748 people tested in 36 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. 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, Friday, June 19, 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](#).

State Fire Marshal Encourages Oregonians to Keep Fireworks Legal and Safe

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), local and state fire service agencies, Oregon licensed fireworks wholesalers and health and safety experts want to encourage Oregonians to "keep it legal and keep it safe" when using legal fireworks. The 2020 Oregon fireworks retail sales season will start on June 23, 2020 and will go through July 6, 2020.

"Oregonians can help each other and especially our first responders by keeping all fireworks use safe and legal, especially now with greater risks of wildfire this fire season and the stresses that COVID-19 is putting on our systems," said Mark Johnston, assistant chief deputy fire marshal. *"Our office's fireworks safety and education materials reinforce these important messages to help prevent unwanted fires, wildfires, and calls to responders or visits to our medical facilities."*

The OSFM has provided some handy tips and charts to help the public understand which fireworks are legal to use in Oregon without a permit, where they are permitted to be used, and important safety steps to take when using fireworks. Please share this information with their friends, families, and neighbors. Download the [Illegal Fireworks Chart Here](#) and the [Legal Fireworks Chart Here](#).

Please Use the Four B's of Safe Fireworks Use:

- Be prepared before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- Be safe when lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks.
- Be responsible after lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak it in a bucket of water before disposal.
- Be aware: use only legal fireworks and use them only in legal places.

For more information log onto OSFM's [website](#) or check out their [FAQs page](#) for commonly answered questions about the sale and legal use of consumer fireworks, permits for the retail sale of fireworks, and state rules for their use, as well as enforcement activities.

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.

###

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