



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) One of the most common questions that we receive from our residents is about testing. We wanted to take a moment and respond specifically to the types of testing that are currently available in Douglas County. Our team consulted with our local experts at Douglas Public Health Network for the answer. As of today, May 1, there are two types of COVID-19 tests available to our residents, the nasal swab and the antibody test.

The nasal swab or PCR test looks for RNA of the virus living in the body, and is currently the only way to identify and diagnose a confirmed active case of COVID-19. The nasal swab test is what DPHN and the testing team have been using in the drive-through clinics, and what health care providers have been ordering and doing to confirm a case of COVID-19. If somebody wants to be tested for COVID-19, then DPHN suggests you ask your health care provider to order the test. If you don't have a health care provider, you can seek care and an order for a test at your local Urgent Care Clinic.

The second test, the antibody or serology test is a blood test to identify if somebody has any antibodies to Coronavirus in their blood. A positive antibody test does not confirm an active infection and can show antibodies from other corona viruses (not just COVID-19). A positive antibody does not guarantee that you are immune and won't get COVID-19. There is not enough known about immunity to COVID-19. There is antibody testing being done in research and commercial labs. Several of the antibody tests have shown some issues with sensitivity, as well as specificity of the tests. If somebody wants an antibody test they can request one from their provider. Quest Labs is currently performing those tests locally, with either a provider order or without if you wish to pay out of pocket.

In the rapidly changing landscape of testing technologies, access to other types of testing is occurring on an accelerated basis all across the globe. DPHN is working diligently with the DCCRT, state, federal and medical partners to increase access to additional types of testing for our residents. At this time, as the local authority on health, DPHN encourages people to be tested with the nasal swab test if you wish to be tested.

Local COVID-19 Test Results

As of 12:00 pm, May 1, 2020, there is one new case of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The new case bumps the total number of Douglas County residents who have tested positive to twenty-four*. However, the newest case, since testing and awaiting the results has been placed on the recovered list. Of the twenty-four cases, eighteen have recovered. One of the individuals that tested positive remains hospitalized. There have been zero deaths and 1058 negative tests for COVID-19 in the county. 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. The majority of the individuals who have 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 today, 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](#).



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



American Red Cross
Southwest Oregon Chapter

DCCRT Partner Spotlight: Lower Umpqua Hospital District

Lower Umpqua Hospital District in Reedsport is an important part of Douglas County's COVID-19 Response Team (DCCRT) and has been heading up efforts in the western part of the county during the pandemic. Hospital officials have been in frequent communication with fellow team members in Roseburg to ensure a consistent countywide approach to COVID-19 and accurate messaging to the public. LUH representatives on the DCCRT include Chief Administrative Officer Ryan Fowler, Public Relations Director Rosa Solano and Nursing and Infection Control Director Sandy Teeter.

As a part of the DCCRT outreach efforts, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, Douglas County's Public Health Officer; Commissioner Tim Freeman and Douglas County Public Works staff, have been traveling to the coast nearly every Saturdays for the past month to administer COVID-19 testing in Reedsport. The hospital is very appreciative of Dr. Bob, Commissioner Freeman and the team for coordinating the testing clinics. And to Dr. Bob for his guidance on the public health protocols. LUH also conducts some tests on its own.

Even before joining the countywide team, LUH had adopted a host of safety measures to protect patients and staff safe from COVID-19. Volunteers, many of whom are seniors, were sent home early on in the pandemic due to the increased risk related to their age. All staff members, patients and visitors to its hospital and two clinics were screened for fever and symptoms. Some appointments were done virtually through Telehealth. LUH set up two disaster tents to prepare for a potential surge in COVID-19 cases, but so far those haven't been needed and one is being used instead for screenings. If there were a surge, LUH's primary acute-care unit would become a COVID-19 unit and the hospital's west wing would house non-COVID patients. The disaster tents outside would be available to handle any overflow. So far though, things have been slow at the hospital due to the governor's order restricting elective surgeries and a reluctance of patients to seek non-urgent care due to the state's stay-at-home guidelines and other factors. Elective surgeries can restart in Oregon beginning Friday, and LUH is planning to resume such procedures gradually.

"We want to make sure that patients know that it's safe to come to the hospital," Solano said.

LUH is closely monitoring its supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), especially N95 masks and isolation gowns, which are in short supply nationwide. Solano and Fowler said coastal residents have banded together to provide PPE for the hospital. Many are sewing masks; a dress maker has been testing out different fabrics to make gowns for LUH that can be sanitized and re-worn; a local teen has been 3-D printing face shields; and a family-run hobby company has worked on ways to alter masks so that the ear bands don't chafe wearers' ears.

"The community's been awesome," Fowler said. "They've stepped up, they've made masks. We've had community members buy food for our staff and send it over. We've had people making reusable gowns and face shields. That's always the great thing about times of crisis – you really see people come together."

LUH is a not-for-profit Critical Access Hospital that provides full health care services to coastal residents. The hospital opened in 1964 to address a gap in health services in the coastal communities, which are geographically isolated from the rest of Douglas County. The facility was remodeled and expanded in 1998.

Solano said the community's help has made a big difference. *"We're just very thankful to our community for all your support,"* she said.

Press Conference Today: Expanded Testing, Contact Tracing Will Guide Timeline for Reopening

In a press conference held earlier today, Friday, May 1, Governor Brown laid out a plan for expanding COVID-19 testing in Oregon – a key step she says needs to happen before the state can reopen. At the press conference, she listed three goals that need to be met before restrictions are lifted:

- Testing should be available for any Oregonian showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Testing must be accessible to vulnerable populations in group settings such as nursing homes, long-term care facilities, prisons, and farmworker housing facilities.
- There must be ongoing, randomized, widespread testing throughout the state to show "where the virus may be hiding."

The first two goals will be achieved through a collaborative effort between the state and major health care providers including Kaiser, Asante, Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU), Providence and others. The third goal will be met through a new program headed up by OHSU; starting the week of May 11, letters will be mailed to 100,000 randomly selected Oregonians inviting them to participate in a COVID-19 testing program. Participation will be voluntary. Testing a random sampling of Oregon residents will help give leaders a better idea of how prevalent the virus is in various communities. [OHSU's website](#) contains more information on the program.

The state is also launching a new effort to increase contract tracing, which is the process of reaching out to people who may have come in contact with a person who has COVID-19. About 600 people all over Oregon, including community health workers, will be trained on how to properly conduct contact tracing. The statewide tracing team will have bilingual and bicultural members.

"With this overarching strategy of testing and tracing in place, we'll be able to begin the process of opening Oregon," the Governor said.

While the Governor did not specify a timeline for the reopening, rural counties, including Douglas County, have pushed to begin reopening soon. She mentioned that she will be in dialogue with leaders from those counties. Although, to date, the Governor has not responded to the letter sent on Friday, April 24, 2020 by the five SW Oregon County Commissioners, including our Douglas County Board of Commissioners, that suggested a regional approach to reopening some lower risk counties. And, Douglas County Government has also not received an invitation or a request to set up a meeting with the Governor about a reopening plan. The Governor said some counties that have almost zero cases and few hospitalizations

may be able to start reopening by May 15. Again, as a reminder the order and process established to reopen Oregon can only come from the Governor.

State Health Officer Dr. Dean Sidelinger said they expect to see an increase in COVID-19 infections statewide once Oregon begins its gradual reopening.

“The reason I say infections are going to go up is that people are going to have more contact with others,” Sidelinger said. *“With that contact comes infections, and with those infections are the possibility for serious infections that require hospitalization. So that’s why you’ll see, as recommendations come out, that we are still going to be recommending people stay 6 feet apart in most settings, and that we cover our faces when we’re in settings where we can’t do that. Those tools are really going to help us slow down the spread of the disease on our community.”*

He said the actions taken by Oregonians so far, including staying at home, have prevented an estimated 70,000 infections and 1,500 hospitalizations. The guidelines on testing are evolving, and the list of high-risk groups that should be prioritized for testing has expanded to include grocery workers, bus drivers, delivery drivers and others, in addition to medical workers. The state is nearing its goal of conducting 15,000 tests per week, Sidelinger said about 2,000 tests are being done daily and plans to expand that number in the coming weeks. Governor said precautions such as physical distancing, wearing masks and sneezing/coughing into your elbow or a Kleenex are expected to be in place for some time, even after many restrictions are lifted. And the customary ‘hand-shake’ will be a no-no for a while.

“It is just going to be a different type of normal,” she said. *“Until we have a vaccine, or have medicine (for COVID-19), we are going to have to be extremely careful regarding the virus.”*

Daily Tips: Dinner-and-a-Movie Friday

Tonight’s meal recommendation: Mexican food....as a nod to the upcoming Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 5. It’s hard to go wrong with this delicious cuisine, and there are plenty of local takeout options to choose from if you don’t feel like cooking on your own. You could pair it with the 2001 PG-13 film “Tortilla Soup,” about a Mexican-American chef in Los Angeles, his three daughters, and their family dynamics – the food scenes are mouth-watering. Or if you’re eating a burrito, you could watch “Anchorman,” also rated PG-13 and starring Will Ferrell as Ron Burgundy, who tosses a burrito out his car window in one scene, accidentally hitting a biker. Your movie doesn’t have to feature Mexican food, of course. If you have young kids at home, we recommend revisiting a classic such as “Toy Story” or “The Incredibles.” If you decide to cook, here’s a recipe for [chicken fajitas](#). Or you could try this Food Network site with [50 taco recipes](#). For delivery options, there’s DoorDash and Grubhub, or you could call your favorite restaurant and ask if they deliver or are open for pick up!

Restaurants Still Making Healthy Choices Easier - #FoodieFriday

There are a growing number of restaurants in the Umpqua Valley that have committed to providing their customers and our community with an abundance of healthy choices on their menu to choose from. Seven restaurants have earned the distinction of becoming Blue Zones Approved Restaurants and five more are working towards becoming approved next. Many of these restaurants have acted quickly in making adjustments that allow them to stay open for delivery and/or take out during COVID-19. These restaurants have stepped up for us to make the healthy choice the easy choice. They need us more than ever during these difficult times and this is our chance to step up for them. [Click here](#) for a list of Blue Zones Project Approved Restaurants. Feel free to ask for a Blue Zones inspired dish for a tasty, fresh option! Check out the Blue Zones Project-Umpqua [Facebook Page](#) to see live interviews with these restaurants every Friday for the #FoodieFriday Campaign.

Be A Hero, Give Blood!

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.*

###

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