



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 7, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) – We know the public is being inundated with copious amounts of COVID-19 news, how-to tips and misleading information right now, but it is important to take a step back and focus on the primary objective; keeping people safe and saving lives. Your Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team continues to reinforce the importance of staying home as much as possible, maintaining your 6-foot people distancing, persistent hand washing, covering your coughs and taking care of yourself. The newest recommendation from the CDC suggests the use of homemade masks, as an added precaution, to aid in preventing the spread of the virus. But, make no mistake, masks are not a substitute for social distancing and do not protect you from contracting the virus. The best advice is to continue to follow the “Stay Home, Save Lives,” guidelines. If you have questions, please call the Douglas County COVID-19 Hotline at (541) 464-6550 or check out the latest FAQ’s from Douglas Public Health Network, available on their [website](#).

Local COVID-19 Test Results

As of 12:00 PM, April 7th, 2020, there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The number of positive cases remains at twelve in the county, with three recovered, zero deaths and 443 negative tests for COVID-19. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-19.

At this time, you can only get a COVID-19 test through your healthcare provider. Residents must be identified by their health care provider, as a patient that is symptomatic, and needs to be tested. Information has been given to providers and clinics about how to get their patients signed up for the drive-through testing clinics. If you want to be tested, you must talk to your health care provider. Tests are currently being processed at the Oregon State Public Health Lab and a growing number of commercial labs, like Quest and LabCorp. There are very few outpatient clinics in Douglas County offering testing at this time. Community health partners are working very hard to make testing available to a wider number of people. The first drive thru testing site was piloted in the county on March 17, 2020, 208 people have been tested so far in the DPHN sponsored drive through clinics.

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](#).

Sheriff's Office Receives Donation of PPE for Deputies

Tuesday afternoon, Sheriff John Hanlin received a donation personal protective equipment (PPE) from Jamie Karpontinis



of Aviva Health. The donation included gloves, masks and sanitizing wipes.

Karpontinis said, “We wanted to assist the deputies who are working on the front lines with some much needed PPE. As we all know, PPE is difficult to obtain and we wanted to ensure they had the proper equipment to protect themselves as they continue serving us.”

Sheriff Hanlin thanked Karpontinis and Aviva for the donation saying, “We appreciate the thoughtfulness of this donation. This is necessary equipment and is very much appreciated.”

Can I visit my friends and family?

While it is certainly not illegal to go to a friend’s house at this time, we recommend that you do so only if necessary. We are not under martial law at this time in Oregon or in Douglas County. Please check out the helpful Q&A that the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office shared from the Oregon State Police [here](#).

The “***Stay Home, Save Lives***” Executive Order #20-12 made by the Governor was instituted to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. This was done to protect all of us. The sooner we all take the “***Stay Home, Save Lives***” message seriously, the sooner we can all be back together.

We suggest finding alternative ways to visit with your friends and family.

Keep in touch if you both have a phone, cell phone, computer or tablet:

- Text, message or email
- Use social media - Twitter, Instagram or Facebook
- Call, video chat, SKYPE or FaceTime
- Play online games together, whether video games or games in your phone apps

Keep in touch if you or they do not have a cell phone or electronic device:

- Write a good old fashion letter and drop it in the mail
- Send them flowers, chocolates or a gift
- Have a meal delivered to them
- If you are out of the area and worried about their welfare, contact a local friend or relative to check on them or call our COVID-19 Hotline at (541) 464-6550 for local resources to help.

Remember, we are all in this together! We all need to do our part to keep each other safe, healthy and informed.

OHA Guidance on Understanding Medicare Coverage

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has issued guidance on understanding coronavirus-related coverage if you have Medicare.

According to OHA:

- Medicare covers lab tests for COVID-19. There are no out-of-pocket costs.
- Medicare also covers all medically necessary hospitalizations. This includes if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and might otherwise have been discharged from the hospital after an inpatient stay but instead you need to stay in the hospital under quarantine.
- If a vaccine becomes available for COVID-19 (there is no vaccine available yet), the vaccine will be covered by all Medicare Prescription Drug Plans.

OHA also issued a reminder that scammers may use the COVID-19 pandemic to try to take advantage of people, and urged individuals to treat their Medicare card like a credit card and check Medicare claims summaries for errors. If someone calls you asking for your Medicare number, hang up.

OHA Uses New Wording for 'Distancing'

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) announced Monday it will begin using the term “physical distancing” instead of “social distancing” to describe the practice of staying physically away from other people during COVID-19. The wording change is because OHA is emphasizing the importance of staying socially connected to family and friends while maintaining physical distance.

Social connections, which can safely occur by phone, email, social media or via video, are important to our health and wellbeing.

“Thanks for checking in on your friends and loved ones to help keep them socially connected during this time,” OHA said in a statement.

Roseburg Public Schools Launches New Website

Roseburg Public Schools unveiled its [new website](#) this week, meant to streamline online information for its schools. Each school’s website has been upgraded as well, and all contain links to the Roseburg Public Schools COVID-19 page and information on the Distance Learning for All programs, which begins April 13.

Visitors to the site can watch a brief video tutorial on how to use the new website.

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](#).

###

Contact [Brad O'Dell](#), Interim Public Information Officer, Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, (541) 440-4464 bcodell@co.douglas.or.us

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

Contact [Tamara Howell](#), Emergency Communications/Comm. Engagement Spec, Douglas County, (541) 670-2804 cell / (541) 957-4896 tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us