



# DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 15, 2020

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

**(Douglas County, Ore.)** After 53 days, reopening day has arrived for many businesses in Douglas County, and in 30 other counties in Oregon. It is a welcome relief for local economies, but, this will not be business as usual. In approving our Phase One Reopening application, the Governor instituted specific criteria, monitoring procedures and stipulated continued physical distancing, hand-washing and staying home if you are sick directives. Many businesses that were closed or chose to close during the Governor's COVID-19 executive order are now able to cautiously reopen if they can follow the strict sector specific guidelines established by the State of Oregon. For a complete list of the Governor's guidelines [click here](#).

*"The COVID-19 virus continues to spread throughout the world. And, for many of our residents the COVID-19 virus is still a looming threat, so we must be vigilant in our personal health and wellness, as well as our care and concern for others during this transitional phase,"* stated Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer.

The Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, under the direction of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners would like to remind citizens that it is important to continue to protect yourself, your family and others from the spread of this virus. *"We know this will not be easy, but if we all work together, we can continue to move forward,"* commented Commissioner Tim Freeman.

### Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results

It is Friday, May 15, 2020 and as of 12:00 pm today, there **NO** new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. Also, 23 of the 24 cases that tested positive have recovered. There has only been one positive case reported in the last 25 days, and that case was reported as recovered before their test results were returned. Testing continues, as DPHN has been holding 2-3 clinics a week and hospitals, urgent cares and clinics continue to test. Twenty-four people have tested positive in the county and twenty-three of those twenty-four have recovered. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-19.

***Please note: We want to confirm there are NO new positive cases today in Douglas County. There was another glitch and typo in entry of case data at the State level this morning. DPHN staff confirmed there were no new cases and corrected it in the system, but OHA had already pulled their numbers for the day. We've asked OHA to update their posting as soon as possible, and to correct their count to the true number, which is 0 new cases in Douglas County.***

Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:

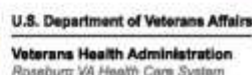
New Cases as of 12:00 pm May 15, 2020	Total Confirmed Cases	Total Recovered Cases  (of those that tested positive)	Total COVID-19 deaths	Total Currently Hospitalized  (of those that tested positive)	Total Negative Test Result	Total Presumptive Cases
0	24*	23	0	1	1654	0

*\*confirmed cases are people who have tested positive with a PCR/nasal swab test*

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. 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.

### Get Tested & Testing Clinics

The next drive through clinic led by DPHN is scheduled for today, Friday, May 15, 2020. There is also a clinic in Reedsport tomorrow, May 16, 2020. 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 480 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](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.](#)

### **Facebook Live with Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer**

Join us tonight, Friday, May 15, 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.

### **DCCRT Partner Spotlight: Douglas Public Health Network: The Organization (Part I of III)**

Douglas County has a unique model for its public health system - and that model has enabled it to respond nimbly and effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic. Public health services used to be provided directly by Douglas County until January 2016, when the department was decentralized and DPHN was formed as a nonprofit. The County still retains public health authority, but DPHN and its partners provide the public health services, operating as a consortium of nonprofits and for-profit businesses.

*“We work with other nonprofits to do the public health services that were traditionally done through the County,”* DPHN Executive Director Teresa Mutschler said.

Commissioner Tim Freeman was instrumental in revamping the County’s approach to public health a few years ago. When he joined the Board of Commissioners in 2015, he was fresh from the state Legislature, where he’d served as District 2 representative since January of 2009. In Salem, he became one of the policy experts on health care delivery systems and served as co-chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee for Health and Human Services, as well as a special joint committee on health care transformation. Douglas County’s public health department was based in a large building on West Madrone Street that is now Adapt’s headquarters. At one point, 300 health department employees worked there, but by the time Freeman became Commissioner that number had dwindled by about 90 percent as services were scaled back. Freeman found the system ineffective. He got together with a recently retired health care administrator and others to analyze the situation and brainstorm solutions. *“We developed something entirely different,”* he said.

The new approach involved tapping into existing resources: There were a host of local organizations that already provided services similar to certain public health functions. DPHN was formed as a nonprofit, and local nonprofits were invited to join as members of the Board of Directors. Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer came on as County Public Health Officer and was hired as DPHN executive director. Later, Teresa Mutschler took over the executive director role. Dannenhoffer remains the medical director for DPHN. The County retains public health authority and is ultimately responsible for the statutory public health services. Each partner agency manages a specific set of services. For instance, United Community Action Network (UCAN) runs the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program; Aviva Health provides immunization, women’s reproductive health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, and school-based health services; Adapt/Compass provides adult and school-based mental health services; and Dunes Family Health Care offers some immunization services in the Reedsport area. Entities like Mercy Medical Center and Umpqua Health participate through the Board of Directors. Having other agencies take on those functions has allowed DPHN itself to focus on things like disaster preparedness, communicable diseases, and prevention. Which has been very critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. While most county public health departments are still providing a full array of public health services during the pandemic, Douglas County’s system allows partner nonprofits to manage day-to-day public health needs while DPHN focuses primarily on COVID-19.

*“With the first Worldwide pandemic in 100 years, our public health system was set up with a large focus on dealing specifically with this type of public health emergency,”* Freeman said. *“They were able to be incredibly responsive and hit the thing out of the park because of the structure and great dedicated people.”*

DPHN now has eight employees, and is contracted with the County to oversee communicable disease, emergency preparedness, public health modernization and tobacco prevention programs. DPHN also works on specialized programs involving public health modernization, prescription drug overdose prevention and ensuring access to well-women and reproductive health services. Our public health office didn’t move to far, as DPHN currently operates out of the Adapt building on West Madrone in Roseburg.

### **New Online Resource For Veterans and Their Families**

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs announced that they have developed a new online help guide for veterans and their families in recovery in the wake of the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. It is called the Veteran Resource Navigator. The site will also inform them of any changes to their earned benefits. The [Veteran Resource Navigator](#) is designed to assist veterans from all walks of life in finding the federal, state and local resources that are most needed for their unique circumstances in 2020. This tool includes resources that are organized by topic, including Economic, Health, Education, Housing and Food, and other resources. Veterans can also call ODVA at [800-692-9666](tel:800-692-9666) for assistance.

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

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