



# DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 COMMAND CENTER



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 31, 2020

## **DAILY LOCAL UPDATE COVID-19**

**Joint Release from Douglas County Board of Commissioners and Douglas Public Health Network**

**(Douglas County, Ore.)** In response to the COVID-19 outbreak locally, the Douglas County Commissioners have established an Incident Management Team (IMT) and have opened the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

The IMT, titled the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, is comprised of various stakeholders to include:

- Adapt
- American Red Cross
- Aviva Health (Formerly Umpqua Community Health Center)
- Douglas County Government
- Douglas County Search and Rescue
- Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- Douglas Forest Protective Association
- Douglas Public Health Network
- Evergreen Family Medicine
- Lower Umpqua Hospital
- Mercy Medical Center
- Umpqua Health

Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team personnel will have individual responsibilities, but will work collaboratively to ensure a strong response to this emergency.

The use of an Incident Management Team to manage the County's response is significant. *"We often see an IMT utilized during disasters such as wildfires. It provides a level of efficiency and overall management which allows those involved to understand the goals of the response and act accordingly,"* said Commissioner Tim Freeman.

### **KC Bolton to Head Emergency Operations Center**

Aviva Health CEO KC Bolton has been tapped to lead Douglas County's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the developing COVID-19 situation. Bolton spent 28 years in the U.S. Army's medical department, commanding hospitals in Iraq and Alaska among myriad other duties. He has been CEO of Aviva Health since 2016.

Bolton said he is working with a "fantastic team" at the EOC, and that previous incidents such as last year's "snowmageddon" and the UCC tragedy have helped Douglas County prepare for emergencies like the current COVID-19 pandemic.

*“At the end of the day, it’s all about understanding what capacity different organizations have, getting them aligned through a plan, and getting them the support they might need beyond their normal resources,” Bolton said.*

He stressed the EOC is a team effort and is “humbled and honored” to have been selected to lead it. “I’m going to do everything I can to leverage what I’ve learned in the past to get us where we need to be as a community,” Bolton said.

Commissioner Tim Freeman said, “KC’s military and medical background made him an ideal choice to head up the incident command structure of the county’s Emergency Operations Center. He is joining an excellent team that includes Douglas County’s Public Health Officer, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, the Douglas Public Health Network and many others.”

### **Local COVID-19 Test Results**

As of this 12:00 pm, Tuesday, March 31, 2020, County Public Health Officer, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer announced two new positive cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County, bringing the confirmed number of cases in Douglas County to ten. A total of five Douglas County residents have been hospitalized related to COVID-19, with only two individuals remaining in the hospital.

Douglas Public Health Network has launched their epidemiology investigation related to the new cases, identifying who this individual may have had contact with. Identifying information about the newest cases are not being released at this time. Close contacts of the confirmed cases will be notified by public health.

Currently, there are zero deaths and 252 negative tests for COVID-19 in Douglas County. DPHN has set up a new online tracking system on their website, [www.douglaspublichealthnetwork.org](http://www.douglaspublichealthnetwork.org), with test results for Douglas County residents. The goal is to have the chart updated at noon every day. Again, as a reminder for patient safety, they will not be releasing any identifying information of those that had testing done, or those that have tested positive. If a case comes back positive after that time, DPHN will announce it with a press release and updating their website, until further notice.

### **Oregon COVID-19 Case Update**

Oregon Health Authority announced that as of 8:00 am today, March 31, 2020, two more lives been claimed by the COVID-19 virus, bringing the State’s total to 18 deaths. There are now 690 cases in Oregon, as they reported 84 new cases of COVID-19 today. The COVID-19 cases by county are as follows: Marion and Washington Counties 18 cases each; Multnomah County 16 cases; Clackamas County 10 cases; Lane County 4 cases; Benton and Polk Counties 3 cases each; Wasco and Yamhill Counties 2 cases each; and Douglas, Hood River, Jackson, Klamath, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa Counties 1 case each. A case reported on Monday as a Deschutes County case was updated today to Washington County. The additional Douglas County case announced today by the Douglas Public Health Network has not yet been reported by the Oregon Health Authority.

Oregon’s 17<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 death was a 90-year-old man in Yamhill County who tested positive on March 25 and died March 29 at Providence Newberg Medical Center. He had underlying medical conditions. Oregon’s 18<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 death was an 88-year-old woman in Benton County who tested positive on March 26 and died March 30 at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis. She also had underlying medical conditions.

Oregon Health Authority reports new cases once a day on its website and today new demographic information was added [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus). The Oregon Health Authority is now 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 and the response across government agencies. [Read more here about the daily situation status report.](#)

### **CARES Act Guide for Business Owners**

Many local businesses have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Relief will soon be available through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on Friday. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has developed a guide to help business owners navigate the new programs and initiatives. [Read the SBA CARES Act guide here.](#) The guide includes sections on:

- **Payment Protection Program (PPP) Loans** – Provides cash-flow assistance through federally guaranteed loans to employers who maintain their payroll during this emergency. If payroll is maintained, the loans would be forgiven. Loans are available through June 30.
- **Small Business Debt Relief Program** – Program provides immediate relief to small businesses through non-disaster SBA loans and microloans. SBA will cover all loan payments on these loans including principal, interest and fees for six months.
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) & Emergency Economic Injury Grants** – Grants provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private nonprofits harmed by COVID-19. To qualify for the grants, business owners must apply for an EIDL and then request the advance. The advance does not need to be repaid, and may be used for payroll, to cover increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations including debts, rent and mortgage payments.
- **Small Business Tax Provisions** – Provisions include employee retention credit for employers experiencing economic hardship, and delay of payment of employer payroll taxes.
- **Counseling & Training** – Services are available through local Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), Women’s Business Centers (WBC) or SCORE mentorship chapters.
- **Contracting** – Government contractors will be able to modify terms and conditions of contracts and to reimburse contractors at a billing rate of up to 40 hours per week of paid leave.

Douglas County Commissioners are working directly with state and federal partners to develop and implement relief programs for our community and local businesses.

*“As more information becomes available on the CARES Act and other relief programs, we will be here to help you find the resources you need to help your business stay afloat as we weather this storm together,”* Commissioner Chris Boice said.

### **Donation Blood Today!**

**Yes, these are uncertain times, but leaving home to donate blood is considered a lifesaving and essential need.** Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org) or calling (800) 733-2767. Donate your blood and save a life.

### **Other Ways to Help**

Those who would like to make a financial donation to the COVID-19 Community Response may do so by visiting the Greater Douglas United Way Website at [www.gduway.org](http://www.gduway.org)

### **Stay Informed with the Accurate Information**

Your Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Douglas County Public Health Official, Dr. Robert Dannenhoffer, officials from Douglas Public Health Network (DPHN), Douglas County Emergency Management, Aviva Health, Mercy Medical Center, Evergreen Family Medicine and Umpqua Health Alliance have been working hard to cooperatively provide accurate and timely COVID-19 information and 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](http://www.douglaspublichealthnetwork.org). Find additional information on state, federal and international COVID-19 response from the following websites: [Oregon Health Authority](http://OregonHealthAuthority.org), [Centers for Disease Control](http://CentersforDiseaseControl.org), [World Health Organization](http://WorldHealthOrganization.org) and by calling or logging onto [211Info](http://211Info.org).

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