



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

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DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) – Lower Umpqua Hospital Prepared to Respond to Public Health Emergency

Lower Umpqua Hospital District is working closely with the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, which is under the direction of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and Douglas Public Health Network (DPHN) to make sure that the facility is following the appropriate treatment, health and safety response guidelines to keep the community's health and safety. Hospital staff and DPHN communicate daily to ensure priorities are identified and are working collaboratively to determine what additional resources may be needed.

“We want our community members in the coastal communities of Douglas County to know the great work that is being done between Lower Umpqua Hospital and the County's Incident Management Team” said Commissioner Tim Freeman. “The Board of Commissioners, Douglas Public Health Network and the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team area highly engaged with healthcare professionals in your community and there is a great deal of collaboration being done.”

Lower Umpqua Hospital staff has been reviewing protocols and procedures daily, related to COVID-19. Each process is examined to identify how operations may be made more efficient and make certain best practices are being followed. Lower Umpqua Hospital wants to assure the community that they are prepared and are working collectively on patient care responses for the COVID-19 virus.

According to Chief Administrative Officer at Lower Umpqua Hospital, Ryan Fowler, “One example is implementing telehealth calls in our outpatient clinics and the rehabilitation department. Patients can speak to a provider from the safety of their home. Those who have participated in telehealth consults are responding well to this new process”. Fowler added, “If our providers identify that a patient needs to be seen in person, they are scheduled to come into the clinic.”

Lower Umpqua Hospital is a Level IV trauma facility, so preparing for emergencies is not a new concept. “Our staff trains year-round within the facility and with other first responder organizations to ensure we provide the best possible service to our community”, said Fowler.



Local COVID-19 Test Results

As of 12:00 PM, April 5, 2020, there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The number of positive cases stand at eleven total in the county, one recovered, zero deaths and 355 negative tests for COVID-19 in the county. One of the individuals who tested positive earlier has now recovered.

The seventh Douglas Public Health Network COVID-19 drive through testing clinic was completed on Saturday April 30th in Reedsport. Nine more people were tested in Reedsport, after getting orders for a COVID-19 test by their health care provider. The DPHN sponsored testing clinics have tested over 200 people 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.](#)

First Responders Show Support for Healthcare Workers

In a show of solidarity for the Healthcare workers in the coastal community of Douglas County, local first responders held a procession of emergency vehicles through the parking lot of Lower Umpqua Hospital Saturday evening.

“Today we’ve gathered a bunch of law enforcement, fire department and rescue personnel to show our support,” said Reedsport Chief of Police Matt Smart. “We just want to make sure they know how much we support them,” added Smart.

Douglas County Sheriff’s Office Deputy Michael Pitcher, who is stationed in Reedsport, said, “For years our hospital staff and EMT’s have shown us support and this is our opportunity to show them the same.”

Several hospital staff members stood outside, some in the rain, smiling and waving at the passing vehicles.

Ryan Fowler, Chief Administrative Officer of Lower Umpqua Hospital District, wished to express his gratitude. He stated, "The support of our fire, rescue and law enforcement means everything to us during this difficult time. We appreciate their recognition of health care workers as we continue to serve our community."

Agencies that participated included Reedsport Police Department, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon State Police, Reedsport Fire, Winchester Bay Fire, Gardiner Fire and Mast Bros. Towing.

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](#).

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