



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2020

DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) Your Douglas County Board of Commissioners authored an urgent letter to Oregon Governor Kate Brown today, outlining their proposal for a Regional Phase 1 Reopening of Oregon. Your Commissioners are dedicated to finding a safe way to give our citizens an opportunity to get back to work and to get the economy moving again. The letter has also been sent to Coos, Curry, Jackson, and Josephine Counties for their approval and once received back, it will be submitted to the Governor. [Click here to read a copy of the letter.](#)

As we continue to hear good news from around the state about a [downward trend in cases](#), we are hopeful that we will be able to begin safely reopening sooner, rather than later.

Local COVID-19 Test Results

As of 12:00 pm, April 22, 2020, there are no new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. The total number of positives in Douglas County remains at twenty-three. * Of the twenty-three, fourteen have recovered. There have been zero deaths and 743 negative tests for COVID-19 in the county. Two of the twenty-three people that have tested positive are still hospitalized in different hospitals. 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. Fourteen of the individuals who tested positive earlier have now recovered. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-19.

Expanded Testing Offered

Testing for COVID-19 has been a rapidly evolving situation since DPHN led the first drive-through COVID-19 testing clinic in March. The collection of samples from Douglas County residents has been taking place in fourteen drive-through clinics since March and also in our local hospitals, urgent cares and clinics. The Oregon State Public Health lab and a number of commercial labs such as Quest and LabCorp have been processing the samples. Two barriers to more widespread testing have recently been eliminated, after much work by DPHN and the local COVID-19 Response Team. Although testing supplies and PPE are still important to conserve, DPHN now has enough of both PPE and testing supplies to continue the drive-through clinics for the next several weeks, eliminating one barrier to more testing. The turn-around time for results has also been streamlined, now averaging 2-3 days.

Given the growing availability of commercial labs and the improving availability of testing supplies and PPE, the Oregon Health Authority changed their guidelines to providers on testing yesterday. In response, DPHN sent out communications to the local health care community alerting them of the increased availability of testing for their patients. DPHN also announced yesterday that Quest labs is now offering the IgG antibody test for COVID-19 locally.

"We have been working hard to keep up with the ever evolving testing availability in Douglas County and remain one of the only local public health entities doing our own testing in the State. We have seen a drop in our requests for testing in our last few clinics and continue to encourage providers to get their sick patients tested. Additionally, if you have patients that think they were sick with COVID-19 prior to March, encourage them to have the new IgG Antibody test available now at Quest." -Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, Public Health Officer for Douglas County

Both tests must be ordered by a health care provider. The first drive thru testing site was piloted in the county on March 17, 2020, there have been 341 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.](#)



DCCRT Partner Spotlight: Roseburg VA

When it comes to community unity and preparedness, our Roseburg VA Health Care System is committed and ready to serve. The Roseburg VA was one of the first in the county to stand up their internal incident command center in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their incident command center was activated on March 6, 2020 and is being led by Roseburg VA Incident Commander, Shawn D. Tyson, under the direction of Keith Allen, Roseburg VA Medical Center Director. The Incident Command Team is comprised of team members working with clinical, logistics, safety, fiscal, security, non-clinical, environmental health and information services. The team created a comprehensive plan that included all aspects of the Health Care System in order to protect the health of everyone who receives care or works at one of their facilities.

According to Shawn Tyson, the Executive Assistant to the Associate Director and Incident Commander at the Roseburg VA, the first order of business was to secure the supply chain for PPE, medical supplies and food services. They instituted programs to conserve their resources of these critical supplies throughout their systems, and made sure they had access to a recurrent supply.

The primary mission at the VA is to protect all patients from outside dangers, so under an abundance of caution, they closed the main entrance and instituted a mandatory screening station near the back entrance, for all visitors and employees entering the Roseburg VA facility. The in-car screening includes a temperature check along with a series of COVID-19 related medical questions that drivers and passengers must pass in order to obtain a daily access card and gain entry. Since the first screening station was installed, the Roseburg VA has since added secondary screening stations for patients who are symptomatic, or have other Urgent Care needs. The additional screening stations allow VA Medical personnel to diagnose, treat and dispense medicine to patients in their vehicles with minimal contact.

Dan Neal, Chief of Pharmacy and Incident Command Clinical Operations at the Roseburg VA, said that as a part of the VA's '[Fourth Mission](#)', "*The Roseburg VA stands ready to support non-VA health care systems and local communities during a crisis.*" The Roseburg VA has been an active partner working directly with the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team and other health care providers in the community since the pandemic started. As a part of the partnership, they recommissioned and prepared 25 beds in the North wing of the Building 1 Hospital on the Roseburg VA grounds, to serve as an overflow COVID-19 ward, should local capacity at Mercy Medical Center be reached. Additionally, they are assisting Mercy Medical Center with their new PPE reuse program, by disinfecting their N95 masks with the Roseburg VA's ultraviolet decontamination machines.

During the crisis the Roseburg VA remains open, and is committed to serving the needs of our Veterans. Only a few limits on service have been initiated at the Roseburg VA due to COVID-19 crisis, like no non-emergency dental care and no visitors in the long-term care facilities, but on the positive side, other established medical programs are seeing a boost in activity and use. For instance, the VA's Telehealth program, the Veteran's Video Connect program and [MyHealtheVet](#) have been utilized more frequently since the crisis began. These programs allow patients to schedule online appointments and connect virtually with the healthcare staff for appointments from the comfort of their own home. Veterans can also call the Roseburg VA with questions or ask for clinical triage over the phone, as well as call the mental health hotline at 2:00 pm for daily peer support. (Roseburg VA: (541) 440-1000 or (800) 549-8387 and Mental Health Hotline: (800) 767-1750, Access Code# 77930). For those that have family in the long-term care facilities, the Roseburg VA recently introduced 'Virtual Visits'. Voluntary Service Chief, Traci Palmer, assisted in standing up the virtual visits for families. To make an appointment with a resident of the PCU, you may call (541) 440-1000 then put in the ext. 44777.

Barbara Galbraith, PhD, MBA, RN, the Associate Director of Patient Care Services at the Roseburg VA, is profoundly grateful for the resilience and strength of the VA team and the community for pulling together to take care of those in need during this crisis. On the staff support side, the Roseburg VA has upped their wellness game by providing a daily staff newsletter with information about access to childcare resources, staying healthy tips and how to weather the crisis guides.

"I am incredibly impressed with the overall response from our leadership team and staff here at the Roseburg VA. Their ability to open and improve communications lines, think out-of-the-box for solutions to issues and adapt their routines to meet the needs of the ever-changing pandemic guidelines, has been nothing short of amazing," stated Director Allen. *"As we head towards the recovery stage of this pandemic, we will see the norms change and the emergence of technology as a valuable tool for the future of quality healthcare for both Veterans and residents alike."*

Support Line Established for Health Care Workers

A group of local of care providers has come together to establish a Douglas County Healthcare Worker Support Line that went live this week. Local health care workers can access this service by calling (541) 677-5800. The line is available Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. A [website](#) has also been set up that contains additional resources for protecting medical workers' mental and emotional health.

"The COVID-19 crisis has been a stressful time for everyone, but especially for medical providers and staff who have continued to provide care to patients despite the risks involved," the website states. "When you are the one caring for others, it can be difficult to know where to turn when you feel yourself feeling overwhelmed, anxious or burned out."

Workers needing additional, ongoing help such as therapy or counseling can be connected to those services through the phone line or the website. Dr. Chip Taylor, Roseburg Family Medicine Residency Director, likened the COVID-19 pandemic to a battle. "Keeping the warriors healthy is really key," he said. The DC Healthcare Worker Support Line is the result of a cooperative effort that involved Adapt, Aviva, Lower Umpqua Hospital, Mercy Medical Center and Umpqua Health Alliance.

OHA Launches Facebook Page in Spanish

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has launched a [Spanish-language Facebook page](#) to ensure that even more Oregonians have easy access to the latest information on health, wellness and the Oregon Health Plan. “OHA en Espanol reflects the value we hold to promote an equitable distribution of information and resources to help individuals reach their full health potential and well-being,” OHA officials said. The agency encourages Facebook users to “like” and share the page.

Local Family Featured on TV for Recreating 80s Music Video

Staying at home during COVID-19 has unleashed a local family’s creativity. Ryan Lewis and his wife, daughter and two sons spent two weeks re-creating the 1982 music video for “I Ran (So Far Away)” by Flock of Seagulls. Here is the [Lewis family’s version](#). The video was so well done it was picked up and aired by Fox 8 News in Cleveland, Ohio on Sunday. The [news segment](#) was shared this morning on Facebook by Melrose Elementary School, where one of the Lewis sons, Ryder, is a student. “Our very own Ryder making the news while we are quarantined,” the Melrose post read. “Enjoy this amazing Melrose family.” The news report states the video was filmed in the family’s garage and it took two weeks to build the set.

Daily Tips: Workout Wednesday

Even with home confinement, there are little things we can do each day to keep our bodies moving. For instance, when you’re on the phone, walk around your house or apartment - treat your hallway like a tiny track. If you tend to sit for long periods, set your phone timer to go off every hour or half hour to remind you to stand up, move around and stretch. If you watch TV, use commercial breaks to stroll from room to room. Do you have stairs in your home? Treat them like a built-in Stairmaster! Use your counters to do countertop pushups. Use your walls to do wall squats (put your back against the wall and squat until your thighs are nearly parallel with the floor). These small things, if done repeatedly throughout your day, can add up and help keep you active and healthy!

Nominate Your “Hometown Heroes”

Many local heroes are keeping the world turning right now through acts of service large and small.

[Blue Zones Project - Umpqua](#) is proud to partner with [Best Country 103](#) and Loggers Tap House on “Hometown Heroes.” Nominate your community hero [here](#). Essential workers, someone who’s going above and beyond for their family, their neighborhood, their workplace, the community, or anyone that you see stepping up in some way during this time of need - enter them to win a \$100 gift certificate to Blue Zones Project-Approved [Loggers Tap House!](#)

Be A Life Savior: Donate Blood

Leaving home to donate blood is considered a lifesaving need. Those who are healthy, feeling well and are eligible to give blood, platelets or convalescent plasma, are urged to participate. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the cancellation of hundreds of Red Cross blood drives, resulting in more than 9,000 fewer blood donations. Anyone interested in donating must make an appointment by visiting www.redcrossblood.org. To save time during your donation, complete your [health history questions](#) prior to arriving. Appointments can also be made using the Red Cross Blood Donor App or calling (800) 733-2767.

Wednesday, April 22 - 9:00 am – 2:00 pm - Holiday Inn Express, 375 West Harvard Avenue, Roseburg

Friday, April 24 - 9:00 am – 2:30 pm - Roseburg Blood Donation Ctr, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg

Friday, April 24 - 10:30 am – 4:00 pm - LDS Church, 2001 West Bertha, Roseburg

Monday, April 27 - 1:00 pm – 6:30 pm - Roseburg Blood Donation Ctr, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd., Roseburg

Tuesday, April 28 – 10:00 am – 3:30 pm – YMCA, 1151 Stewart Parkway, 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.*

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