



DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM NOON CASE & DAILY LOCAL UPDATE

(Douglas County, Ore.) Over the last 90 days, scientists, physicians, researchers and health care professionals the world over have been in overdrive working to find a cure, comprehend spread, improve testing capabilities and develop technologies to combat the COVID-19 virus. All of this work involves the same common denominator, the opportunity for human interpretation, as well as human error. As we continue to report findings, there will be times when our numbers are going to fluctuate and evolve. We appreciate your patience as we work out the kinks and continue to provide the most up-to-date information available.

Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results

It is Saturday, May 16, 2020 and as of 12:00 pm today, there is one new case of COVID-19 in Douglas County. This is a new positive case that was confirmed by DPHN today. There was an error in OHA reporting cases in Douglas County yesterday, May 15, as such there was not a new case yesterday. Again, the new case was confirmed by DPHN this morning, May 16. This brings the total number of positive tests to 25, as of today, May 16. Testing continues, as DPHN has been holding 2-3 clinics a week and hospitals, urgent cares and clinics continue to test. Additional testing technologies such as the Abbot ID Now machine, available locally, have also shortened the wait time for results. Twenty-five people have tested positive in the county and twenty-three of those twenty-five have recovered. DPHN defines recovery as an end to all symptoms after a positive test for COVID-19.

Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:

| New Cases as of 12:00 pm May 16, 2020 | Total Confirmed Cases | Total Recovered Cases <small>(of those that tested positive)</small> | Total COVID-19 deaths | Total Currently Hospitalized <small>(of those that tested positive)</small> | Total Negative Test Result | Total Presumptive Cases |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | 25 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 1702 | 0 |

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, Saturday, May 16, 2020 in Reedsport. 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 491 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: Douglas Public Health Network: The People (Part II of III)

The most visible person at DPHN is Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, known by many community members simply as “Dr. Bob.” While he works tirelessly behind the scenes on all aspects of Douglas County’s COVID-19 response, Dannenhoffer is most known for his “Facebook Live” updates where he’s kept local residents in the loop about new developments and answered questions from community members.

“He’s an amazing spokesperson,” said DPHN Program Manager Christin Rutledge. *“He has a really great way of presenting information in a way that people can understand, while remaining very calm. He’s a calming presence.”*

Dannenhoffer chalks up his soothing demeanor to decades of experience as a pediatrician; in addition to serving as Douglas County’s Public Health Officer and DPHN’s Chief Medical Strategist, he still sees young patients part-time at Aviva Health. Dannenhoffer was invited to sit on Governor Brown’s COVID-19 Medical Advisory Panel, which provides advice, input and feedback to the governor and Oregon Health Authority on the state’s response to the pandemic. The panel includes health experts from around the state. He provides hands-on leadership in Douglas County’s public health response – for instance, he personally participated in the pilot of the County’s drive-through COVID-19 testing station to make sure the process in place worked and was safe for both workers and those getting tested. He’s also made a number of trips to the coast for drive-through testing operations in Reedsport.

“I cannot imagine having someone with a better skill set and personality in this role,” Commissioner Tim Freeman said about Dannenhoffer’s leadership during COVID-19. *“He has spent a lifetime preparing for this type of an emergency. We are blessed that he was the right person at the right time in the right place! We all owe him a debt of gratitude.”*

Teresa Mutschler is DPHN’s Executive Director, and serves as co-incident commander for the Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, along with KC Bolton, CEO of Aviva Health. She is also DPHN’s Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, and that’s how she spent the bulk her of her time prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic began, her schedule has been marked by long days focused on keeping residents safe and healthy.

Rutledge, DPHN’s Program Manager, normally focuses on overseeing programs such as tobacco prevention and education, community health education and the prescription drug overdose program. During the COVID-19 pandemic, among other duties, she’s served as DPHN’s logistics officer, managing the local supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), including receiving, inventory and distribution. You may also have seen her YouTube videos on topics such as how to properly wear homemade masks.

Laura Turpen is DPHN’s Lead Epidemiologist and has done a lot of work on contact tracing, with the help of other DPHN staff. Laura spent time in Gambia working in public health and brings a wealth of experience in infectious disease. Her expertise and knowledge about infectious disease and epidemiology has been instrumental in leading both DPHN’s response.

Vanessa Becker was brought on as DPHN Public Information Officer to steer public communication during the COVID-19 pandemic. She has a graduate degree in epidemiology and previously worked as Deputy Health Administrator for the Douglas County Public Health Department. She also has a consulting business and has authored multiple community health assessments across the state. Vanessa brings crisis communications expertise, and was a key leader in the response to the 2015 UCC shooting as UCC Board Chair.

Brian Mahoney, DPHN Public Health Modernization Program Coordinator, has been doing a lot of operations work for the COVID-19 response. Brian spent time working in Kenya on public health; served for several years with the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta; and worked with the World Health Organization in Geneva. He has also worked for Oregon Health Authority, and ran the Clatsop County Health Department for many years.

Mark Stout is Public Health Generalist, and Katy Dannenhoffer has been acting as Courier.

Dannenhoffer said DPHN’s team has been working long hours on the COVID-19 response, without complaint. *“It has been such an incredible team effort,”* he said. *“With such a small little team here, to do as much as we’ve done, is really pretty amazing.”*

Updated Modeling Shows Reduction in Transmission Rates

The Oregon Health Authority reported that they now have access to a revised modeling from the Institute for Disease Modeling specifically prepared for OHA. It shows that measures taken by Oregonians have lowered COVID-19 transmission rates, with the number of new cases appearing to be at a steady, low number, rather than declining. [Read the full report here.](#)

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. 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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Contact [Tamara Howell](#), Public Information Officer, Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, (541) 670-2804 cell/(541) 957-4896 tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us
Contact [Vanessa Becker](#), Public Information Officer, Douglas Public Health Network, (541) 817-6552 cell/(541) 440-3571 vanessa@douglaspublichealthnetwork.org