



# DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM

**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 20, 2020**

## **DOUGLAS COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE TEAM - CASE AND DAILY LOCAL UPDATE**

**(Douglas County, Ore.)** It is astonishing when you take a moment to look back 82 days, when the Oregon Health Authority announced the first positive case of COVID-19 in Oregon. It was at that moment that the word ‘coronavirus’ became a household term, toilet paper sales oddly soared and the deadly virus that had swept rapidly through China had now penetrated the borders of our State. At that time, very little was known about the spread, timeline and symptoms of the virus, or what would become of our world, our economy or our local businesses. Who would have thought our kids would be learning from home, masks would become normal attire, telehealth services would be ever so critical, you would not be permitted to go-out to eat or to a movie, and ‘air hugs’ six feet apart would become common place? It’s incredible what has happened in our world, our nation, our state and our county in the last 12 weeks. But, the good news is our citizens have proven time and time again that they are resilient, and that because of the remarkable leadership of our Douglas County Commissioners, our Public Health Official, Dr. Bob Dannenhoffer, DPHN and local health professionals we have ‘weathered the crisis’ and are moving forward to a new day, a new reality and a renewed sense of purpose. However, we are not out of the woods yet, so stay vigilant in protecting you and your family’s health. If you did not get a chance to read the [editorial](#) written by Michael Kurtz, the Douglas County Human Resources Director, that takes a look behind the scenes of our Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, it is well worth a quick read.

### **Douglas County COVID-19 Test Results**

It is Wednesday, May 20, 2020 and as of 12:00 pm today, there are NO new cases of COVID-19 in Douglas County. Also of note, as of today we have surpassed 2,000 negative test results in Douglas County. The total number of positive cases in Douglas County remains at 25. Testing continues, as DPHN has been holding 2-3 clinics a week and hospitals, urgent cares and clinics continue to test. 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. 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. The first positive COVID-19 case in Douglas County was announced on March 8, 2020. Thanks to the great work that Douglas County has done social distancing and staying home, we’ve had 25 cases in 73 days.

### **Here are the current numbers for Douglas County:**

<b>New Cases as of 12:00 pm May 20, 2020</b>	<b>Total Confirmed Cases</b>	<b>Total Recovered Cases</b> <small>(of those that tested positive)</small>	<b>Total COVID-19 deaths</b>	<b>Total Currently Hospitalized</b> <small>(of those that tested positive)</small>	<b>Total Negative Test Result</b>	<b>Total Presumptive Cases</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>0</b>

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.

### **Getting Tested & Testing Clinics**

The next drive-through clinic will be held in Roseburg on Friday, May 22, 2020. Our drive-through testing clinics have conducted over 500 nasal swab/PCR tests. As a reminder, 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 508 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.](#)



## **Need Help Paying Rent?**

The Oregon Housing and Community Services' COVID-19 Rent Relief Program may be able to help residents who are struggling to pay rent and are at risk of becoming homeless, due to lack of resources, loss of income or a delay in benefits due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistance is being offered through a needs-based formula at regional [Community Action Agencies \(CAA's\)](#), via an \$8.5 million allocation from OHCS. The formula was created using severe rent burden data, poverty data, homelessness data and unemployment claims. CAA's will begin taking applications soon. Residents lacking rental payment resources should contact their local CAA directly. Residents will be required to provide income loss documentation, as well as other materials in order to access the program. If approved, rent payments will be made directly to their landlord on behalf of the resident. The \$8.5 million was allocated by the Oregon Legislature through the Joint Emergency Board. OHCS said they are anticipating some additional resources from the Federal Government via the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) in the coming weeks. The release said the funds have been allocated statewide to local communities. [Click here](#) for a full list of opportunities and contact information.

## **ODF: Prevent Your Campfire from Turning into a Wildfire**

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) issued another tip for May's Wildlife Awareness Month talking about how to prevent your campfire from getting out of hand and causing a wildfire to ignite. We know that sitting around a campfire in the great outdoors in Douglas County and around our beautiful state is one of the special times we all enjoy, but campfires are also a major cause of wildfires. ODF's Pacific Northwest Coordination Group urges campers to follow these basic outdoor safety tips:

- ✓ **Know before you go:** Before going camping, always contact the forest district, agency or landowner first to learn if there are any current campfire restrictions where you plan to recreate.
- ✓ **Have water and fire tools on site:** Bring a shovel and a bucket of water to extinguish any escaped embers. When you are ready to leave, drown all embers with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is DEAD out. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave.
- ✓ **Select the right spot:** Where campfires are allowed, choose a site with an existing ring. Fire pits in established campgrounds are the best spots. If you choose to build a campfire, avoid building it near your tent, structures, vehicles, shrubs or trees, and be aware of low-hanging branches overhead. Clear the site down to bare soil, at least five feet on all sides, and circle it with rocks. Store unused firewood a good distance from the fire.
- ✓ **Keep your campfire small:** A campfire is less likely to escape control if it is kept small. A large fire may cast hot embers long distances. Add firewood in small amounts as existing material is consumed.
- ✓ **Attend your campfire at all times:** A campfire left unattended for even a few minutes can grow into a costly, damaging wildfire. Stay with your campfire from start to finish until it is dead out, as required by law. That ensures any escaped sparks or embers can be extinguished quickly.
- ✓ **Consider alternatives to a campfire this summer:** Portable camp stoves are a safer option to campfires at any time of year. Areas that prohibit campfires outside maintained campgrounds with established fire pits often allow camp stoves.
- ✓ **Never use gasoline or other accelerants:** Don't use flammable or combustible liquids, such as gasoline, propane or lighter fluid, to start or increase your campfire.
- ✓ **Burn ONLY local wood:** Hauling your firewood to a remote campground can potentially transport invasive species. Instead, buy it where you'll burn it or gather wood on site where permitted. State regulations prohibit the open burning of any other material that creates dense, toxic smoke or noxious odors. Burning paper and cardboard can also easily fly up to start new fires.

A reminder that escaped campfires can be costly, and potentially deadly. State and federal law require the proper clearing, building, attending and extinguishing of open fires at any time of year. While citations and fines may apply, the biggest potential cost for an escaped campfire is firefighting costs. These can range from a few hundred to tens of thousands of dollars or more. Help us prevent wildfires and visit [Smokey Bear's website](#) and [Keep Oregon Green's website](#) for other wildfire prevention tips.

## **Blood Donations Desperately Needed! Donate Blood, Save a Life and Be a Hero!**

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.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) or calling (800) 733-2767. Donate your blood and save a life. Appointments are now required, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule your appointment today.

Wednesday, May 20	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Holiday Inn Express, 375 West Harvard Blvd, Roseburg
Friday, May 22	9:00 am - 2:30 pm	Roseburg Blood Donation Center, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd
Tuesday, May 26	12:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Family Church, 4384 Carnes Road, Roseburg
Tuesday, May 26	9:00 am - 2:30 pm	Pine Grove Community Church, 1729 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg
Wednesday, May 27	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Winston Community Center, 440 SE Grape Ave, Winston
Thursday, May 28	1:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Family Church, 878 W Sixth Ave, Sutherlin
Friday, May 29	9:00 am - 2:30 pm	Roseburg Blood Donation Center, 1176 NW Garden Valley Blvd
Friday, May 29	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	YMCA of Douglas County, 1151 NW Stewart Pkwy, 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 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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Contact [Tamara Howell](#), Public Information Officer, Douglas County COVID-19 Response Team, (541) 670-2804 cell/(541) 957-4896 [tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us](mailto:tjhowell@co.douglas.or.us)  
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