



## Curry County Public Health Administrator

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### Press Release – March 20, 2020

GOLD BEACH, Ore.—

#### **No confirmed cases in Curry County, State announces cases daily**

Curry County currently has no confirmed cases of COVID-19. As of 8:30 a.m. today, March 20, 2020. Oregon now has a total of 114 people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. The Oregon Health Authority announces cases of the novel coronavirus daily.

Curry County Public Health is working with OHA to respond to an outbreak of respiratory illness, called COVID-19, caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. Curry County has been testing for COVID-19 and currently there are No positive cases in Curry County.

At this time Curry County Public Health is not releasing results specific to Curry County in order to protect the health information of the individuals who have been tested in Curry County.

The Office of the State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL), along with commercial labs is testing for COVID-19 in Oregon. At this time, the role of OSPHL is to monitor geographic distribution and assess patients at high risk of infection or who might have exposed many others at high risk for serious disease.

When someone tests positive for COVID-19, Curry County Public Health will follow OHA investigative Guidelines by contacting and interviewing the individual. The interview questions include details about recent travel and identify persons who the individual has been around. It's important to answer the questions completely and accurately to help stop the spread of this disease.

The individual's healthcare provider and public health staff will also provide information about how to keep from spreading the virus to family and friends. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate from other people for as long as the healthcare provider instructs.

Curry County officials are reminding the public that viruses don't discriminate – and neither should we. The COVID-19 virus spreads like the flu, when someone who is sick coughs or sneezes close to another person (close means within about 6 feet). No group of people is more likely to get COVID-19 or spread it to others.

Curry County Public Health urges all people to take steps to protect themselves, their families, and those who are most vulnerable to complications from COVID-19. Those considered "high risk" includes adults 60 and older, or anyone with a serious health condition, including lung or heart problems, kidney disease, diabetes, or anyone who has a suppressed immune system.

People vulnerable to complications should follow Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to stay home as much as possible and avoid gatherings.

Health officials urge social distancing, good hand hygiene, covering coughs and staying home if you are sick.

Every resident should take these basic steps to protect themselves and those most at risk:

- Never visit a hospital or long-term-care facility if you have a fever or cough.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces like bathrooms, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, faucet handles, toys and cell phones.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home and away from others if you are ill.

After someone contracts COVID-19, illness usually develops within 14 days. Symptoms mirror those of the flu, including fever, cough, runny nose, headache, sore throat and general feelings of illness.

**To help the community of Curry County stay informed with updated information, please see the following links for local, state, National and Global response.**

**Curry Response: [Curryoem.com](http://Curryoem.com)**

[Oregon response](#): The Oregon Health Authority leads the state response.

[United States response](#): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention leads the U.S. response.

[Global response](#): The World Health Organization guides the global response.

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